

**Report of the  
Commissioners  
of the  
District of  
Columbia**

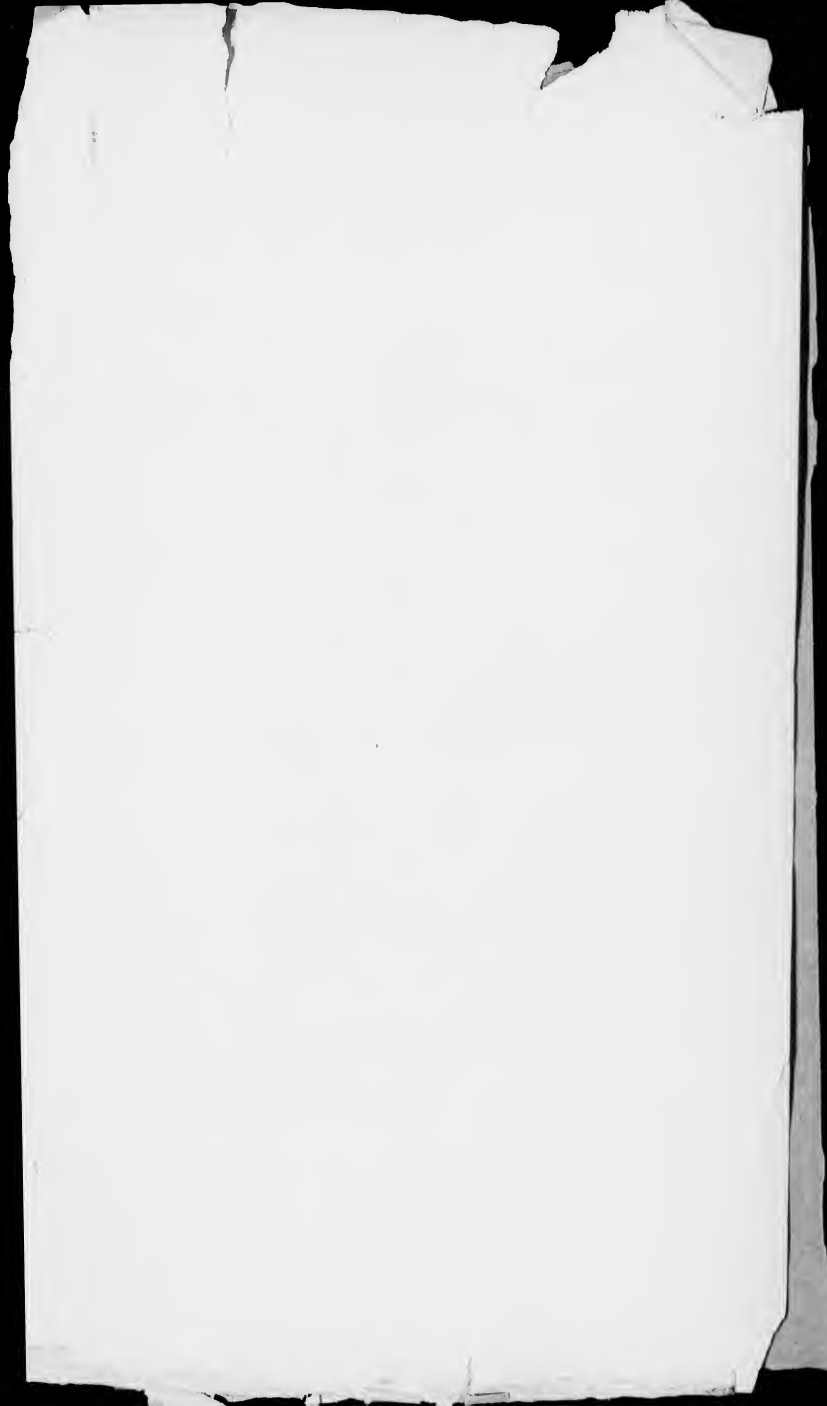
**1925/1926**

**(Washington, DC)**



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**REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1927**



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REPORT OF  
THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED JUNE 30  
District of Columbia.  
Commissioners.  
T: Report  
1927



UNITED STATES  
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WASHINGTON  
1927

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TO THE  
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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5, 1927.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:*

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia transmit herewith their report of the transactions of the government of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, as required by law.

## FINANCES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District appropriation act for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1922 (42 Stat. L. 668), provided:

\* \* \* That, annually, from and after July 1, 1922, 60 per centum of such expenses of the District of Columbia as Congress may appropriate for shall be paid out of the revenues of the District of Columbia, derived from taxation and privileges, and the remaining 40 per centum by the United States, excepting such items of expense as Congress may direct shall be paid on another basis; \* \* \*

The foregoing provision of the substantive law is still in force, having never been repealed.

The actual appropriations from 1922 to 1928, both inclusive, and the proportion contributed by the United States are as follows:

Fiscal year	Appropriations	Amount charged to District of Columbia revenues	Amount payable by United States	Percentage paid by United States
1922-----	\$22,977,411.07	\$13,784,647.70	\$9,192,763.37	0.4000
1923-----	27,231,343.01	16,469,244.51	10,762,098.50	.3952
1924-----	20,505,454.41	12,424,349.78	8,081,104.63	.3940
1925-----	32,920,151.28	23,774,796.02	9,145,355.26	.2696
1926-----	31,651,730.38	22,651,638.38	9,000,092.00	.3843
1927-----	33,948,328.23	24,947,837.72	9,000,490.51	.2689
1928-----	34,691,175.00	25,691,175.00	9,000,000.00	.2882

The commissioners very earnestly believe that appropriations for the next fiscal year should be upon the 60-40 basis instead of the lump-sum contribution of \$9,000,000. It is clearly evident that the total budget of the District of Columbia has been annually increasing while the Federal contribution has remained substantially stationary. The assessor of the District of Columbia has recently submitted the following figures:

District of Columbia real estate assessed for taxes for year 1927-28-----	\$1,118,093,162.00
Plus new buildings for second half of year (estimated)-----	12,000,000.00
<b>Total-----</b>	<b>1,130,093,162.00</b>
At tax rate of \$1.70 per hundred this produces a tax of-----	19,211,583.75

Tax-exempt United States owned property, carefully estimated .....	\$470,000,000.00
Tax-exempt foreign government owned property (estimated) ..	4,000,000.00
Other real estate owned by charitable, educational, and religious organizations.....	70,000,000.00
District government owned tax-exempt property estimated at ..	50,000,000.00

In considering the proper basis of contribution by the Federal Government and the District of Columbia for the maintenance and support of the National Capital, there are certain items which may be viewed upon a mathematical basis. However, it would seem not unreasonable to suggest that there is a further rather intangible element which should prompt the Federal Government to contribute an additional sum. Expenditures in the District of Columbia are made on a larger scale, by reason of the fact that it is the capital of the United States, than would be the case if this were not so. Municipal structures must be made more ornate, under the advice of the Fine Arts Commission, streets must be wider, greater police expenditures are necessary, and, in fact, the budget, taken as a whole, is upon a scale of expenditure which represents an increase over that which would be necessary in a similar city not the Capital of the Nation.

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

## APPROPRIATIONS

The cash receipts of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, amounted to \$34,327,629.91, made up as follows: Revenue of the District of Columbia from taxes and miscellaneous sources \$25,327,629.91; amount transferred to the revenues of the District of Columbia by the United States, \$9,000,000.

The collections from taxes on real estate for the fiscal year 1927 amounted to \$16,628,454.65; collections from taxes on personal property, including taxes on gross earnings and receipts of public utilities, banks, and building associations and on gross receipts of street railway companies, \$3,636,188.78; and collections from taxes on intangible personal property \$2,259,915.13. Collections from miscellaneous sources amounting to \$2,803,071.35.

The cash expenditures for the fiscal year 1927 from appropriations amounted to \$33,055,576.72, classified as follows:

General government.....	\$1,464,503.88
Protection of life and property.....	5,868,176.30
Health and sanitation.....	3,420,471.63
Highways.....	3,035,486.84
Public welfare.....	3,633,988.95
Education.....	11,287,564.24
Recreation.....	1,954,620.92
Miscellaneous.....	141,463.13
Public-service enterprises.....	2,249,300.83
	<u>33,055,576.72</u>

## TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

The collections on account of trust and special funds for the fiscal year 1927 amounted to \$5,652,609.17, water revenues representing \$1,452,139.17 of this total; policemen and firemen's relief fund, \$592,152.42; miscellaneous trust fund deposits, \$953,772.02; fund for redemption of real estate from tax sales, \$735,242.83; teachers' retirement fund, \$341,359.12; and the balance being collections for a number of miscellaneous trust and special funds.



The expenditures on account of trust and special funds during the fiscal year 1927 amounted to \$5,029,351.89. Included in this amount were expenditures for the water department, \$1,326,214.83; for the policemen and firemen's relief fund, \$566,467.65; miscellaneous trust fund deposits, \$1,014,569.36; Washington redemption fund, \$645,105.23, and teachers' retirement fund, \$338,167.59.

## CASH BALANCES JUNE 30, 1927

The cash balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia in the Treasury of the United States on June 30, 1927, amounted to \$11,451,944.16, but in this amount is included the sum of \$2,292,631.78, representing the balance to the credit of the surplus revenue fund of the District of Columbia, which amount when deducted from the general fund balances leaves a net balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia of \$9,159,312.38; and to the credit of trust and special funds, \$1,171,399.92.

## ASSESSMENT OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

The act of Congress approved July 3, 1926 (Public, No. 480), provides that real estate in the District of Columbia shall be assessed annually for purposes of taxation.

## AMOUNTS OF REAL-ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

The assessed value of land was \$400,882,739 and the assessed value of improvements was \$545,484,703, or a total of \$946,367,442 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927. Against this assessment a rate of \$1.80 was levied, making the tax \$17,034,614.

For the previous year, 1926, land and buildings were assessed for \$900,749,842 which, at a rate of \$1.70, gave a tax of \$15,312,747.

The tax rate for the fiscal year 1928 has been fixed at \$1.70 per hundred.

The value of new buildings and additions added for the fiscal year 1927-28 amounted to \$47,476,300, located as follows: Northwest city, \$8,542,800; northeast and southeast city, \$2,396,500; southwest city, \$205,900; northwest county and Georgetown, \$32,427,900; northeast and southeast county, \$3,903,200. Amount of assessment for improvements removed, \$629,050.

*Assessment of land and improvements, District of Columbia, from 1914 to 1927 inclusive, as shown in yearly reports*

Year	Land	Improvements	Total	Rate	Tax
1914	\$169,212,099	\$175,912,045	\$345,124,144	\$1.50	\$5,176,862
1915	208,279,494	182,029,784	390,309,278	1.50	5,854,339
1916	207,173,905	187,035,999	394,209,904	1.50	5,913,148
1917	207,355,350	194,734,873	402,090,223	1.50	6,031,488
1918	209,377,939	200,795,670	410,173,609	1.50	6,152,604
1919	208,007,025	206,513,666	414,610,691	1.50	6,219,160
1920	213,499,811	213,123,819	426,623,630	1.50	6,399,354
1921	213,785,853	221,008,933	434,794,786	1.95	8,478,498
1922	224,333,810	248,540,399	472,874,209	1.82	8,606,311
1923	335,538,719	387,660,549	723,199,268	1.30	9,401,590
1924	355,657,562	423,203,111	778,860,673	1.20	9,346,328
1925	355,752,055	463,873,517	819,625,572	1.40	11,474,758
1926	402,848,046	497,901,796	900,749,842	1.70	15,312,747
1927	400,882,739	545,484,703	946,367,442	1.80	17,034,614

1914 to 1922, inclusive, at two-thirds value.

1923 to 1927, inclusive, at full, true value.

## PERSONAL TAX ASSESSMENTS

The personal tax levy for the fiscal year 1927 had a grand total of \$6,290,134.72, derived from three different classes of assessment

First, an amount derived from a levy on household furniture (above \$1,000 value), merchandise, jewelry, boats, vehicles, horses, etc., or what is commonly known as tangible personal property; second, from a tax on the gross earnings of banks, trust companies, and public service corporations; third, from the tax on moneys and credits, including moneys loaned and invested, bonds and shares of stock, or what is generally known as intangible personal property.

The following table shows the amount of tax levied for the various years under the act of July 1, 1902, and amendments, for the assessment of personal property:

*Rate on intangible personal property, \$3 per thousand, 1918 to 1922, inclusive, and \$5 per thousand 1923 to 1927, inclusive*

Year	Rate	Tangible personal property		Tax on public-service corporations, banks, etc., per cent on gross earnings	Tax on intangible personal property	Total
		Value	Tax			
1903.....	1.50	\$14, 872, 536.00	\$233, 085.49	\$340, 437.57	.....	\$563, 533.06
1904.....	1.50	15, 952, 894.00	238, 993.56	398, 422.05	.....	637, 415.61
1905.....	1.50	17, 624, 805.00	264, 373.08	401, 875.12	.....	666, 218.20
1906.....	1.50	18, 806, 096.00	282, 091.47	442, 243.22	.....	724, 334.69
1907.....	1.50	20, 700, 403.00	310, 508.06	495, 181.94	.....	805, 688.00
1908.....	1.50	22, 402, 990.00	336, 044.85	527, 837.25	.....	863, 882.10
1909.....	1.50	23, 182, 110.00	352, 100.50	567, 352.78	.....	919, 453.28
1910.....	1.50	25, 192, 361.00	377, 885.41	629, 137.00	.....	1, 007, 022.41
1911.....	1.50	27, 550, 662.00	413, 259.93	676, 280.86	.....	1, 089, 540.79
1912.....	1.50	29, 609, 766.00	444, 146.49	687, 799.14	.....	1, 131, 945.63
1913.....	1.50	32, 122, 407.00	481, 836.11	713, 219.19	.....	1, 195, 055.30
1914.....	1.50	32, 319, 713.00	484, 795.70	745, 296.17	.....	1, 230, 091.87
1915.....	1.50	34, 530, 823.00	517, 962.35	757, 864.96	.....	1, 275, 827.31
1916.....	1.50	35, 041, 985.00	525, 629.77	792, 712.95	.....	1, 318, 312.72
1917.....	1.50	38, 316, 667.00	574, 750.01	796, 624.90	.....	1, 371, 374.91
1918.....	1.50	43, 140, 336.00	647, 105.04	835, 181.95	\$890, 779.39	2, 373, 066.38
1919.....	1.50	56, 226, 510.50	843, 397.66	951, 234.04	880, 519.34	2, 675, 151.04
1920.....	1.50	66, 821, 047.00	1, 022, 315.71	1, 118, 389.26	969, 093.83	3, 089, 798.80
1921.....	1.95	83, 844, 796.25	1, 634, 973.53	1, 472, 027.91	971, 848.74	4, 078, 849.18
1922.....	1.82	84, 566, 955.68	1, 539, 118.59	1, 560, 075.08	1, 007, 249.46	4, 106, 443.13
1923.....	1.30	87, 588, 795.93	1, 138, 653.88	1, 596, 262.58	1, 825, 395.45	4, 560, 311.91
1924.....	1.20	97, 360, 486.50	1, 168, 325.83	1, 678, 902.59	1, 899, 006.45	4, 746, 238.87
1925.....	1.40	99, 977, 565.80	1, 399, 685.92	1, 732, 329.65	2, 050, 530.94	5, 182, 546.51
1926.....	1.70	100, 708, 130.00	1, 712, 207.75	1, 969, 053.15	2, 185, 429.04	5, 896, 729.94
1927.....	1.80	104, 623, 370.00	1, 883, 220.66	2, 043, 923.63	2, 362, 984.43	6, 290, 134.72

*Personal tax, tangible and intangible, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927*

	Levy	Tax
Tangible personal property at \$1.80 per \$100.....	\$104, 623, 370.00	\$1, 883, 220.66
Bonding companies at 1½ per cent on the gross receipts.....	1, 164, 519.00	17, 467.78
Title insurance companies at 1½ per cent on gross receipts.....	875, 566.50	13, 133.50
Building and loan associations at 2 per cent on gross earnings.....	2, 706, 144.00	54, 122.88
Incorporated savings banks at 4 per cent on gross earnings, less interest to depositors.....	1, 949, 262.59	77, 970.50
Electric light companies at 4 per cent on gross earnings.....	6, 282, 362.00	251, 294.48
Telephone companies at 4 per cent on gross earnings.....	6, 652, 794.00	266, 111.76
Street railway companies at 4 per cent on gross receipts.....	11, 103, 198.80	444, 127.95
Gas light companies at 5 per cent on gross earnings.....	3, 346, 758.00	167, 337.90
Georgetown Barge, Dock, Elevator & Railway Co. at 5 per cent on gross earnings.....	20, 570.77	1, 028.54
National banks at 6 per cent on gross earnings.....	6, 434, 003.00	386, 040.18
Trust companies at 6 per cent on gross earnings.....	6, 063, 236.00	363, 794.16
Private bankers at \$500 per annum.....	.....	1, 500.00
Total.....	151, 221, 784.66	3, 927, 150.29
Increase in tangible tax over last year.....	.....	215, 849.39
Intangible personal property at 0.5 of 1 per cent.....	472, 596, 885.00	2, 362, 984.43
Increase in intangible tax over last year.....	.....	177, 555.39
Grand total.....	.....	6, 290, 134.72

Number of accounts, tangible property only.....	28, 107
Number of accounts, intangible property only.....	6, 248
Number of accounts having both tangible and intangible property.....	40, 599

Total number of accounts, tangible and intangible, 1927..... 74, 945

## SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

The amount of special assessment work is set forth in the following statement of special assessments levied during the year ended June 30, 1927:

Assessment and permit work.....	\$448, 440. 42
Paving roadways.....	542, 145. 11
Assessments levied by juries for street extensions, opening minor streets and alleys and establishment of building lines.....	114, 501. 74
Total.....	<u>1, 105, 087. 27</u>

Number of services served during the year.....	10, 976
Number of tax certificates passed.....	<u>21, 782</u>

## Amounts levied under different character of work:

Sidewalks.....	24, 751. 95
Curbs.....	58, 967. 76
Sewers.....	321, 076. 29
Paving alleys.....	43, 644. 42
Total.....	<u>448, 440. 42</u>

## Under amounts collectible for extension of streets, minor streets, alleys, and establishment of building lines:

Street extensions.....	94, 045. 26
Opening minor streets and alleys.....	20, 062. 49
Building lines.....	393. 99
Total.....	<u>114, 501. 74</u>

## WATER-MAIN TAX DIVISION

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, the water-main tax division levied assessments in the amount of \$245,044.27, as against \$205,922.14, for the same period ending June 30, 1926, making an increase of \$39,122.13. The itemized collections follow:

Water-main taxes collected.....	\$157, 748. 99
Water-main taxes collected by sale January.....	1, 889. 37
Interest collected.....	4, 954. 22
Total amount collected.....	<u>164, 592. 58</u>

Number of notices served.....	1, 512
Number of tax certificates passed.....	<u>21, 782</u>

## TRANSFERS AND SALES OF PROPERTY

During the past year the assessor's office has entered data relating to the transfer of 17,483 pieces of property, as compared with 13,433 of last year. One clerk is employed continually in examining deeds in the land records of the District of Columbia (recorder of deeds' office), and a short reference or brief of each transfer is entered on loose leaves, afterwards being permanently bound in book form, which become transfer books of ready reference.

## GAS TAX

Under the act of Congress approved April 23, 1924, motor vehicle fuel importers are required to report monthly to this office as to the

number of gallons of motor vehicle fuel sold, used, or otherwise disposed of, and to pay a tax, at the rate of 2 cents per gallon. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927, 24 companies and 4 Government agencies reported 54,560,613 gallons, with the resultant tax of \$1,091,212.26. This indicates an increase in the number of gallons reported over 1926 of 6,506,569 gallons, and an increase in tax of \$30,131.39. The Government agencies reported 518,187 gallons, with a tax of \$10,363.74. The number of gallons reported for the fiscal year 1927 would indicate that the average tax per car on motor vehicle fuel used for 12 months was \$10.91.

STATEMENT A.—*Showing cash income of the District of Columbia from all sources during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, and expenditures therefrom on account of District of Columbia appropriations, trust and special funds*

	Detail	Total	Grand total
CASH BALANCES JULY 1, 1926			
To the credit of the disbursing officer, District of Columbia, on account of:			
Appropriations.....	\$1,713,446.38		
Trust and special funds.....	186,409.46	\$1,899,855.84	
In the Treasury of the United States on account of:			
General fund of the District of Columbia. \$6,147,264.54			
Surplus revenue fund of the District of Columbia.....	4,017,608.53		
Trust and special funds.....	10,164,873.07		
	713,331.58	10,878,204.65	
INCOME			
Revenues collected account general fund of the District of Columbia.....	25,327,629.91		
Amount transferred to the District of Columbia revenues by the United States.....	9,000,000.00		
Collections and credits account trust and special funds.....	5,652,609.17	39,980,239.08	
			\$52,758,299.57
EXPENDITURES			
Net expenditures from appropriations.....	33,055,576.72		
Excess of repays over proportion of advances chargeable to the United States account various appropriations.....	6,000.00		
Net expenditures account trust and special funds.....	5,029,351.89		
Amount transferred to policemen and firemen's relief fund.....	468,115.36	38,559,043.97	
BALANCES JUNE 30, 1927			
To the credit of the disbursing officer, District of Columbia on account of:			
Appropriations.....	1,224,313.12		
Trust and special funds.....	351,598.40	1,575,911.52	
In the Treasury of the United States on account of:			
General fund of the District of Columbia. \$9,159,312.38			
Surplus revenue fund, District of Columbia.....	2,292,631.78		
Trust and special funds.....	11,451,944.16		
	1,171,399.02	12,623,344.08	
			52,758,299.57

STATEMENT B.—*Account of the District of Columbia with the Treasury of the United States for receipts, other than trust and special funds, deposited in the Treasury of the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, advances from appropriations payable from the revenues of said District, and cash balances of the District of Columbia*

	Detail	Total	Grand total
Cash balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia July 1, 1926.....	\$10, 164, 873. 07		
Revenues of the District of Columbia deposited in the Treasury of the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927.....	25, 327, 629. 91		
Amount transferred to the revenues of the District of Columbia by the United States.....	9, 000, 000. 00	\$44, 492, 502. 98	
Net advances from all appropriations during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927.....	32, 572, 443. 46		
Amount transferred to the policemen and firemen's relief fund.....	468, 115. 36	33, 040, 558. 82	
Balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia, June 30, 1927.....			\$11, 451, 944. 16

NOTE.—Above balance distributed as follows:

To the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia.....	\$9, 159, 312. 38
To the credit of the surplus revenue fund of the District of Columbia.....	2, 292, 631. 73
	11, 451, 944. 16

#### CHANGE IN PERSONNEL

Lieut. Col. James Franklin Bell, who had been a commissioner since June 25, 1923, was succeeded in that office on June 23, 1927, by Col. William Baker Ladue.

#### LICENSE BUREAU

During the past fiscal year this office collected a total of \$308,526.14 in license fees of all kinds. Of this amount, \$141,116 was collected for motor-vehicle registrations and \$167,410.14 for miscellaneous business licenses.

In connection with the registration of motor vehicles, attention is invited to the need of the District of Columbia for a motor vehicle title law, and such law should be enacted as soon as possible.

The collection of revenue from miscellaneous business license taxes has not grown in recent years as it should in proportion to the growth of the city, due to the fact that many changes have taken place since the passage of the act under which the majority of these fees are collected. This act was approved July 1, 1902, and since that date many classes of business which were taxed have gone out of existence. Provisions of that act taxing certain other classes of business have been declared invalid by the courts, thus further eliminating sources of revenue. Many other businesses have come into existence in recent years, and most of these should pay a license tax, but are not required to do so under the present law. It is apparent, therefore, that there is need for the revision of the present law or enactment of a new law to take its place.

#### PURCHASING OFFICE

Through this office are purchased all supplies, stores, materials, and equipment required by the various divisions of the government of the District of Columbia.

The total expended during the year amounted to \$5,140,168.74, embracing supplies and materials of every conceivable nature, which may be classified generally as follows:

Agriculture supplies	\$9, 180. 06
Automobile supplies	34, 852. 12
Books, school, blank, reference, binding, and binding material	137, 376. 79
Construction material used in road, street, and sewer work	1, 678, 377. 83
Drugs and chemicals, hospital and biological supplies	48, 015. 19
Dry goods, clothing, boots, and shoes	253, 910. 29
Electrical supplies, including cable and fire-alarm boxes	81, 733. 44
Fire-fighting apparatus and supplies	113, 057. 22
Flags, batons, revolvers, holsters, insignia	3, 658. 51
Food supplies:	
Eggs and milk	36, 962. 76
Groceries, poultry, meats, and fish	234, 766. 73
Vegetables and fruits	14, 925. 74
Forage, flour, and meal	120, 228. 51
Fuel, including liquid fuel	438, 035. 38
Furniture and house furnishings, office equipment	209, 974. 88
Hardware, plumbing supplies, paints, oils, and lumber	548, 853. 41
Ice	12, 865. 83
Laundry equipment and laundry	18, 831. 69
Lighting service, gas and electric, buildings only	144, 653. 78
Machinery, engines, boilers, pumps, tanks, and repairs	69, 033. 15
Mules	960. 00
Pianos and tuning thereof	6, 580. 65
Playground, athletic, and kindergarten supplies	46, 353. 21
Postage	23, 638. 12
Printing and engraving	75, 769. 86
Repairs, miscellaneous, including minor, to buildings	31, 479. 20
Saddlery	5, 977. 01
Stationery	94, 898. 14
Tags, motor vehicle, dog, wagon, badges	18, 326. 83
Telegraph and telephone service	29, 648. 92
Transportation, freight, and expressage, including car tokens	71, 219. 18
Typewriters and repairs thereto	18, 350. 63
Vehicles, motor and horse, and repairs thereto	152, 939. 37
Miscellaneous	332, 122. 39
Heating apparatus, ranges, stoves, radiators, etc	22, 611. 92
Total	5, 140, 168. 74

#### CADETS AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The District of Columbia is entitled, under Chapter XXII of section 1 of "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919," approved July 9, 1918, and other laws, to four cadetships in the United States Military Academy. The cadets at present are Horace S. Beall, jr., Thomas Joseph Brennan, jr., and Mercer Christie Walter, for the term ending June, 1928, and Donald R. Patterson, for the term ending June, 1931.

#### MIDSHIPMEN AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Under a provision in the act of Congress entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1919, two midshipmen from the District of Columbia are in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. These midshipmen are James Alvin Adkins and Charles Bowling Martell for the terms to be completed in June, 1930. In the appropriation for the naval service for the

fiscal year ending June 30, 1927, the number of midshipmen to be appointed from the District of Columbia is restricted to two.

#### CORPORATION COUNSEL

#### COURT OF APPEALS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

During the fiscal year decisions in 18 cases in which the District of Columbia was a party were rendered by the Court of Appeals. Twelve such decisions were favorable and six adverse to the District of Columbia. Six cases are now pending in that court.

#### SUPREME COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

During the fiscal year 36 actions at law were instituted in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in which the District of Columbia was named as a party defendant; four cases were filed in said court by this office.

Sixteen cases were disposed of in this court, nine in favor of the District of Columbia, appeals being noted in three such cases; four were dismissed by plaintiffs; the District of Columbia consented to judgment in two cases, and one case resulted adversely to the District of Columbia.

Seventeen equity suits were filed in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in which the District of Columbia was named as party defendant, and in one case the proceeding was instituted by this office.

Twenty-four equity cases were disposed of during the fiscal year, nine in favor of the District of Columbia, in four of which appeals were noted; one case was dismissed by the plaintiff; and decisions adverse to the District of Columbia were rendered in three cases. Eight cases are now pending in said court in which the District of Columbia is a party defendant.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, there was pending in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, holding a district court, 40 proceedings in condemnation, and during the fiscal year 24 additional condemnation cases were filed. Of this number, during the fiscal year, 16 verdicts were finally ratified and confirmed, 12 proceedings were discontinued by the commissioners, 1 proceeding was dismissed by the court, and 33 are pending. In two pending cases, decisions adverse to the District of Columbia were rendered, but such decisions were reversed by the Court of Appeals. In two other cases decisions adverse to the District of Columbia were rendered and are pending on appeal.

This office represented municipal officials in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in four habeas corpus proceedings. Two of these proceedings were dismissed by petitioners prior to hearing and two resulted in decisions adverse to the defendants. In one such latter case, upon appeal, the decision of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia was reversed.

Lunacy proceedings to the number of 353 were filed by this office in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year. Of this number 275 respondents were found to be of unsound mind and committed to the Government Hospital for the Insane;

27 respondents were adjudged not insane and discharged; the petitions in 10 cases were dismissed on motion of the assistant corporation counsel, it appearing that the respondents, although of unsound mind, could be cared for by relatives or friends without danger to the public. Twenty-three respondents were discharged by the superintendent of St. Elizabeths before trial; eight respondents died before trial; one respondent was admitted to the hospital on a duplicate permit; one respondent escaped; one respondent was found to be of unsound mind, but without suicidal, homicidal or otherwise dangerous tendencies, and was released; and seven cases are pending.

#### MUNICIPAL COURT

In the municipal court, replevin proceedings to the number of 10 were filed against officials of the Metropolitan Police Department and the defendants represented by this office; in each of said cases satisfactory proof of ownership of the property involved was established by the plaintiffs and their property restored to them.

Sixteen other proceedings were instituted against the District of Columbia in the municipal court during the fiscal year. One such case was dismissed by the plaintiff prior to trial; one case was settled without trial; one case was tried and judgment rendered in favor of the District of Columbia; five cases were decided adversely to the District of Columbia, in one of which an appeal was noted; and eight cases are now pending.

#### POLICE COURT

During the fiscal year informations to the number of 48,349 were filed in the District branch of the police court, and during that period fines and forfeitures aggregating \$227,299.04 were collected.

The congested condition of the jury docket in the police court has been a matter of grave concern. This has been caused by the frequent demands for jury trials and the lack of machinery to try the numerous cases. A strong drive was made in the spring to ameliorate this situation, and considerable progress made, when the failure of the appropriations stopped the work until after the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, when the work was resumed.

It is obvious that the machinery of the court to try jury cases must be increased or the penalties made less drastic, so as to curtail demands for jury trials. The adoption of both courses is recommended.

#### JUVENILE COURT

During the fiscal year proceedings to the number of 1,521 were filed in the juvenile court, resulting in court hearings in 1,179 such cases.

During the fiscal year this office, in conjunction with the Board of Public Welfare of the District of Columbia, secured from the estates of persons adjudged to be of unsound mind and committed to St. Elizabeths reimbursements to the District of Columbia in the sum of \$47,853.75, said amount representing the cost of care and treatment of such persons in that institution.

During the fiscal year \$2,684.51 was collected by this office for damages to lamp posts within the District of Columbia.



The general work of the office consisted of the approval as to form of 101 bonds, 423 contracts, 342 tax deeds, 11 right-of-way deeds, 52 licenses, 29 leases, and 9 special agreements. Three hundred and seventeen formal opinions were rendered to the commissioners. Many other opinions were given orally to the heads of departments and District officials, and a large number of consultations had, of which no record is kept.

During the fiscal year this office received 287 reports of accidents and claims for damages in which the District of Columbia might have been involved. Each report was investigated by the inspector of claims assigned to this office and reports thereon obtained and filed for future reference. This official also investigates and reports in behalf of the Employees' Compensation Commission all claims by municipal employees for damages alleged to have been sustained in the performance of their duties. As a result of these investigations 399 employees of the District were found to have been injured in the performance of their duties, and in addition to being rendered medical care were compensated in the total amount of \$10,290.99. In addition thereto medical attention, hospital service, and allowance in behalf of widows and minor children of municipal employees injured in the line of duty was expended in the sum of \$9,985.06.

The corporation counsel presided at all hearings before the policemen's and firemen's retiring and relief board. An assistant corporation counsel presided at all trial board hearings of the police department, acted as prosecutor at all hearings of the fire department trial board, and attended all inquests where fatalities occurred in which the District of Columbia might have been involved by way of damages.

#### DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

The revenues of the department and their sources were as follows:

##### *License fees and taxes collected in 1926*

Licenses for companies, associations, and orders.....	\$9, 818. 36
Licenses for principal agents.....	14, 191. 74
Licenses for ordinary solicitors.....	10, 437. 41
Licenses for industrial solicitors.....	1, 668. 29
Licenses for brokers.....	2, 429. 20
Assignments of licenses.....	55. 25
Filing fees.....	110. 00
Taxes from life, health, and accident companies.....	204, 108. 62
Taxes from fire and marine companies.....	45, 034. 43
Taxes from casualty companies.....	33, 252. 58
Total.....	321, 105. 88
The total revenues in 1925 amounted to.....	284, 053. 87

Increase of 1926 over 1925..... 37, 052. 01

The operating expenses of the department in 1926 were as follows:

##### *Expenditures in 1926*

Salaries of all employees.....	\$16, 605. 75
Contingent expenses.....	2, 098. 20
Total.....	18, 703. 95
In 1925 the operating expenses of the department were.....	19, 913. 78
Decrease.....	1, 290. 83

While the revenues increased \$37,052.01, the cost of operating the department decreased \$1,209.83.

## COMPANY AND ASSOCIATION LICENSES ISSUED

This department licensed during the calendar year 1926 a total of 457 companies and associations, which was a gain of 16 over the preceding year.

The total premiums collected and the losses paid in the District of Columbia during 1926 were as follows:

	Premiums collected	Losses paid
Stock, life, and mutual companies and associations.....	\$14,951,062.27	\$3,875,872.88
Fraternal associations.....	663,360.55	421,505.06
Assessment, life, etc. (section 653).....	1,886,823.06	681,717.52
Fire and marine.....	3,654,180.69	1,188,691.36
Reciprocal exchanges.....	9,338.65	5,128.65
Casualty.....	2,702,416.34	953,304.90
Total.....	23,867,181.56	7,131,220.67

The total premiums collected in 1925 amounted to \$22,319,645.29, or a gain of \$1,547,536.27, while the losses paid during the same year amounted to \$6,619,897.68, or an increase of \$511,322.99 in the losses paid.

## FIRE INSURANCE

Below is a comparative statement showing premiums received, losses paid, and the loss ratio to the premiums received for the past 10 years in the District of Columbia:

	Premiums received	Losses paid	Percent-age
1917.....	\$988,277.03	\$150,902.44	15¼%
1918.....	1,208,030.03	231,140.60	19¼%
1919.....	1,553,605.85	561,784.62	36¼%
1920.....	1,860,474.07	424,310.19	22¾%
1921.....	1,644,964.74	589,198.18	35½%
1922.....	1,996,966.79	1,099,187.28	55%
1923.....	2,442,344.58	819,799.52	33½%
1924.....	2,234,029.11	871,674.30	39%
1925.....	2,521,798.62	847,686.35	33¾%
1926.....	2,771,390.32	900,757.21	32¾%
Grand total.....	19,221,931.14	6,496,440.69	33¾%

## COMPANIES ENTERING OR WITHDRAWING

Eleven life, 10 casualty, 7 fire, and 2 fraternal entered the District during the year, while the following withdrew: 2 casualty, 7 fire, and 4 life insurance companies.

## NEW COMPANY

The Great National Insurance Co., Washington, D. C., was organized in the District during the year, with a minimum capital of \$100,000 and surplus of \$50,000.

## EXAMINATIONS

The department made and participated in three examinations.

## NEW INSURANCE LEGISLATION

Work is still being done on the draft of the proposed new insurance code for the District, which will be completed in time for introduction early in the new Congress.

## FIRE-INSURANCE RATES IN THE DISTRICT

It has been suggested that a commission be created by act of Congress to study the fire-rate situation in the District, clothed with authority to make such adjustments as are found proper and expedient.

## COMPULSORY WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

It has been recommended that Congress pass a compulsory workmen's compensation law to protect employees in the District, particularly those engaged in hazardous occupations. This law should be also fair to the employers and not work any undue hardships on them as to the rates or requirements.

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The department of weights, measures, and markets is charged by law with the supervision of two distinct municipal activities:

(a) Administration of the weights and measures act of 1921, and  
(b) supervision of markets owned by the District. The work relating to weights and measures covers a broad field of activity. It relates to the examination and standardization of weights and measures, all weighing and measuring instruments used for commercial purposes, enforcement of provisions relating to trade practices, and requiring delivery of the quantity represented of all commodities sold by mercantile and other establishments throughout the District. Weighing and measuring instruments subject to inspection and test are examined before being placed in use for the purpose of determining whether or not they are accurate, whether they comply with legal requirements as to construction, and whether suitable for the purpose for which they are intended to be used. Those which do not meet requirements are rejected. After being placed in use, instruments are, as nearly as is possible with the limited inspection force, examined semiannually, as required by law.

During the fiscal year inspectors made 11,184 official visits to business establishments under supervision and in each instance careful inspection was made of instruments in use. The establishments in question ranged from the smallest shops to the largest stores and manufacturing plants. There were made 2,164 special or surprise inspections at various times throughout the year. The total number of examinations of equipment, including commercial scales, weights,

capacity measures, mechanical fabric-measuring machines, linear measures, gasoline and oil dispensing pumps, prescription scales, jewelry scales, milk bottles, and other instruments, was 862,202. Of this number 838,584 were found correct and approved, 1,477 were adjusted before being approved, and 23,618 were condemned. The number of official visits to establishments shows an increase of 82 over the preceding year. The number of special inspections shows an increase of 294. The number of prescription and jewelry scales shows an increase of 184. The number of prescription and jewelry weights shows an increase of 3,387. The number of gasoline and oil measuring pumps shows an increase of 970. The total number of office laboratory tests was 2,834, an increase of 222 over the preceding year. The latter includes instruments brought to the office by persons having no established places of business and certain instruments requiring a more delicate test than could be made in the field.

More attention has also been given to investigational, educational, and regulatory work than ever before, and as a result there has been a general improvement in conditions all along the line. The total number of establishments in which inspections and investigations were made was 5,014. In addition thereto there were registered 1,362 transient vendors, which it was necessary to keep under supervision.

Every complaint received was made the basis for a careful investigation, and such action was taken as the facts in each case warranted. It was considered necessary to institute prosecutions in 111 cases during the year. Defendants in none of the cases disposed of were acquitted. Eight cases were pending in court at the close of the year. Fines and forfeitures in the cases disposed of amounted to \$1,008. Those prosecuted included 8 bakers, 23 coal dealers, 14 gasoline dealers, 50 ice dealers, and 16 food dealers.

Notwithstanding the fact that the weights and measures law is punitive in form, it is corrective in nature, and it has long been the policy of this department to pursue corrective measures when abuses could be abated and the public protected by that course, but it has not hesitated to prosecute whenever the public welfare demanded. In addition to making investigation as a result of complaints received, inspectors, while engaged in their regular inspection duties, are required to be on the alert for discovery of law violations, and make reports to the superintendent regarding same. Special investigations are ordered by the superintendent in many instances when no complaint has been received but where there is cause to believe that irregularities may exist. Extensive surveys affecting certain lines of trade, such as bread, gasoline, coal, etc., are also made when possible. New types of weighing and weighing instruments, many of them of complicated construction, are being almost constantly placed on the market. This is especially true in regard to gasoline pumps, and for that reason much attention has been devoted to preventing faulty pumps from being installed in the District. Each new device is subjected to rigid examination as to construction before being approved. It was found necessary to refuse approval of some pumps by reason of design and construc-

tion. In other instances manufacturers were required to make certain changes in the construction of their pumps before approval.

#### DISTRICT MARKETS

The District markets are: Farmers' Produce Market, Twelfth and B Streets NW.; Fish Market, Eleventh and Water Streets SW.; Eastern Market, Seventh and C Streets SE.; Western Market, Twenty-first and K Streets NW.

The number of producers selling at the Farmers' Market has considerably increased during the past several years, and the number of persons who buy at the market has likewise increased. This market affords retail merchants, hucksters, and other small dealers and consumers an opportunity to buy the best grades of home-grown fruits, vegetables, and other products of the farm directly from the producers thereof at lower prices than they otherwise would have to pay. The market serves a double purpose of enabling producers to obtain fair prices for their products and at the same time enables consumers to purchase without the addition of unnecessary profits resulting from rehandling. A nominal charge of only 20 cents per day is made for a space wide enough for a vehicle. No farmer is charged for space except on days he actually sells produce at the market. The number of spaces occupied during each month of the year was as follows: July, 6,513; August, 8,479; September, 8,341; October, 7,555; November, 4,872; December, 4,632; January, 2,208; February, 2,023; March, 2,713; April, 3,694; May, 3,785; June, 6,108; total, 60,923.

The Fish Market and wharves in connection therewith is confined largely to wholesale and retail sales of sea food. A large volume of business is transacted in commodities falling within that classification. There is also unloaded at the wharves considerable quantities of miscellaneous freight. This class of business has been larger during the past year than ever before. An estimate which is considered conservative places the business done in sea foods at about \$2,000,000 and the volume of miscellaneous freight handled over the wharves at more than \$1,000,000.

Eastern and Western Markets are inclosed markets which have inside stands rented to dealers in various commodities and outside curb lines for farmers who sell at retail. The buildings are old, having been in existence since the early days of Washington. They are in a state of more or less disintegration and do not measure up to modern construction.

Business conditions have changed so much during the past several years that inclosed markets like Eastern and Western Markets do not prosper as formerly. Many people who formerly patronized market dealers now patronize the corner stores. In the case of Western Market many householders of high buying power who patronized it in years past have moved to other sections of the city, the result being that business there has decreased. If its operation is continued beyond the current year, very extensive repairs to the building will be necessary and it will be difficult to justify the expense.

The total amount of revenue derived from all the District markets during the year was \$42,003.46. All money has been paid over to the collector of taxes for deposit in the Treasury in accordance with the law.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education is composed of nine members who shall have been for five years immediately preceding their appointment bona fide residents of the District of Columbia, and three of them shall be women. They are appointed by the judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

The commissioners are indebted to the courtesy of the Board of Education for the following synopsis of public-school statistics in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year embraced in this report:

## DAY SCHOOLS

The maximum enrollment in the public schools of the District of Columbia was: White, 51,177; colored, 25,187; total, 76,364.

The above enrollment for the school year was distributed as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary:			
Kindergartens.....	4,088	1,814	5,902
Primary, Grades I-III.....	14,655	8,807	23,462
Grammar, Grades IV-VIII.....	17,712	8,092	26,404
Opportunity, etc.....	240	34	274
Americanization.....	759		759
Atypical, special, and incorrigible.....	632	405	1,037
Junior high:			
Grammar, Grades VII-VIII.....	3,106	1,212	4,318
Secondary, Grade IX.....	1,144	347	1,491
Senior high:			
Academic.....	6,018	1,644	7,662
Business.....	1,134	225	1,359
Technical.....	1,254	1,073	2,327
Normal.....	259	475	734
Vocational.....	176	459	635
Total enrollment.....	51,177	25,187	76,364

The maximum enrollment shows an increase of 1,461, or 1.95 per cent, over the previous year.

The average number of pupils enrolled was: White, 46,441.7; colored, 23,298.6; total, 69,740.3.

The average number of pupils in daily attendance was: White, 42,883.8; colored, 21,222.7; total, 64,106.5.

The percentage of attendance was: White, 92.3; colored, 91.1; total, 91.9.

The percentage of absence was: White, 7.7; colored, 8.9; total, 8.1.

The number of weeks in the school year was 36.

The number of school days was 182.

The average number of days schools were in session was 180.7.

Teachers in all schools were distributed as follows:

	Administrative principal, assistant principals, heads of departments, and directors			Teachers and teaching principals			Grand total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary:									
Kindergarten—									
Directors.....		2	2					2	2
Teachers.....					201	201		201	201
Grades I-VIII—									
Principals.....	8	43	51	6	43	49	14	86	100
Teachers.....				18	1,157	1,175	18	1,157	1,175
Opportunity, etc.				3	79	82	3	79	82
Ungraded—									
Principals.....		1	1					1	1
Teachers.....				4	65	69	4	65	69
Special departments—									
Directors.....	6	8	14				6	8	14
Teachers.....				43	170	213	43	170	213
Junior high:									
Principals.....	7	3	10				7	3	10
Teachers, Grade VII.....				12	92	104	12	92	104
Teachers, Grade VIII.....				17	82	99	17	82	99
Teachers, miscellaneous, elementary.....				23	25	48	23	25	48
Teachers, Grade IX.....				9	52	61	9	52	61
Senior high:									
Principals.....	7		7				7		7
Assistant principals.....	2	7	9				2	7	9
Heads of departments.....	11	4	15				11	4	15
Teachers, grades IX-XII.....				149	352	501	149	352	501
Normal:									
Principals.....	1	1	2				1	1	2
Teachers, grades XIII-XIV.....				3	43	46	3	43	46
Vocational:									
Principals.....	2	1	3				2	1	3
Teachers.....				17	26	43	17	26	43
Grand total.....	44	70	114	304	2,387	2,691	348	2,457	2,805

Number of librarians: White, 7; colored, 3; total, 10.

Number of clerks: White, 55; colored, 21; total, 76.

Number of messengers: White, none; colored, 1; total, 1.

Janitorial service and care of buildings and grounds, 470.

Table showing number of school buildings, schoolrooms, and sittings for pupils

	White	Colored	Total
School buildings:			
Elementary—			
Kindergarten.....	(1)	(1)	(1)
Grades.....	94	41	135
Miscellaneous and special.....	5	1	6
Junior high.....	8	5	13
Senior high.....	5	2	7
Normal.....	1	1	2
Vocational.....	2	2	4
Total.....	115	52	167
Portable buildings.....	52	24	76
Rented buildings.....	7	5	12

<sup>1</sup>Kindergartens are housed in buildings with grade schools in general. There is also a kindergarten in each normal school.

<sup>2</sup>7 white junior high schools occupy 8 buildings and 3 colored junior high schools occupy 5 buildings, a total of 10 junior high schools occupying 13 buildings.

Table showing number of school buildings, schoolrooms, and sittings for pupils—  
Continued

	White	Colored	Total
<b>Schoolrooms:</b>			
Elementary—			
Kindergarten.....	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Grades.....	899	416	1,315
Miscellaneous and special.....	32	27	59
Junior high.....	181	74	255
Senior high.....	208	62	270
Normal.....	13	9	22
Vocational.....	18	18	36
Total.....	1,351	606	1,957
Portable rooms.....	52	24	76
Rented rooms.....	17	3	20
<b>Number of sittings:</b>			
Elementary—			
Kindergarten.....	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Grades.....	36,078	17,242	53,350
Miscellaneous and special.....	960	449	1,409
Junior high.....	5,413	2,120	7,533
Senior high.....	7,358	2,502	9,860
Normal.....	255	286	541
Vocational.....	155	304	519
Total.....	50,219	22,963	73,212
Portable sittings.....	1,816	904	2,720
Rented, sittings.....	131	—	131

<sup>1</sup> Kindergartens are housed in buildings with grade schools in general. There is also a kindergarten in each normal school.

<sup>2</sup> Additional rooms used by the practice and grade classes are included in the report above for grades.

The permanent school buildings contain in addition to rooms above the basement, not strictly classrooms, used for laboratories, study halls, other regular school work, and basement rooms, also the following:

Assembly halls.....	37
Gymnasiums.....	16
Swimming pools.....	2

## NIGHT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

There were enrolled in the night schools 10,754 pupils, of whom 7,562 were white and 3,192 colored.

The average number of pupils enrolled was 5,707.7—3,211.9 white and 2,495.8 colored.

The average nightly attendance was 4,704.2; 2,570.2 white and 2,134 colored. This shows an increase over the previous year of about one-half of 1 per cent.

The per cent of attendance was 82.7—80.3 white and 85.5 colored.

There were at the close of the session 242 teachers—161 white and 81 colored. They were distributed as follows: 92 male teachers—58 white and 34 colored; 150 female teachers—103 white and 47 colored.

The average number of nights these schools were open was 86.6—82.1 white and 92 colored. The school open the shortest period was a vocational school located in the Jefferson Junior High School Building; that open the longest period was the Americanization Night School located in the Webster School Building—the former being open 28 nights and the latter 100.5 nights.

These schools were taught in buildings used for day schools; 16 in all—8 white and 8 colored.



These figures include, as heretofore, those for Americanization work during the regular session for the scholastic year.

## DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND

Provision is made for the maintenance and tuition of deaf, dumb, and blind children. During the school year ended June 30, 1927, there were maintained at out-of-town institutions 81 pupils, as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Blind.....	14	8	22
Deaf and dumb.....	50	9	59
Total.....	64	17	81

The institutions referred to above are as follows:

Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Washington, D. C.  
Maryland School for the Blind (white and colored departments),  
Overlea, Md.

## AMERICANIZATION WORK

Americanization work and the instruction of foreigners of all ages, both day and night, was carried on at the Webster School in the day and at the Webster, Curtis, and Hine Schools at night.

## VACATION SCHOOLS

[From July 6, 1926, to August 13, 1926]

There were 9,262 pupils enrolled in the summer or vacation schools—white, 6,255; colored, 3,007. (See below for Americanization and playgrounds.)

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary.....	2,251	1,396	3,647
Junior high.....	348	70	418
Senior high.....	2,007	1,025	3,032
Total.....	4,606	2,491	7,097

The number of teaching centers was: White, 26; colored, 9. Of these centers, 2 were of senior high-school grade and 2 of junior high-school grade; total, 4—white, 3; colored, 1.

Other enrollments in the summer or vacation schools were as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Outside playground enrollment.....	1,199	516	1,715
Americanization:			
Day.....	195	-----	195
Night.....	255	-----	255
Total.....	450	-----	450
Total.....	1,649	516	2,165

The number of teachers in charge of all summer or vacation schools was as follows: White, 175—10 male, 165 female; colored, 81—27 male, 54 female; total, 256—male 37, female 219.

#### SCHOOL GARDENS

The school gardens were conducted during the summer months and throughout the school year. For the year there were 25 teachers employed—17 white, 8 colored; 2 male and 23 female.

Centers rented for school gardens.....	3
Centers rented for use of portable buildings.....	1

#### COMMUNITY CENTER DEPARTMENT

Civic, educational, recreational, and social activities were conducted by this department, under the direction of the Board of Education, in public-school buildings by the following personnel: Director, 1; general secretaries, 2; full-time secretaries, 7; part-time secretaries, 6; assistant secretaries, 2; clerks, 2; mechanic, 1; assistants, 41; other employees, occasional services, 4; in all, 66.

The total amount of money spent for the public schools, including \$2,722,962.04 for buildings and sites, was \$10,992,985.08.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library is by its organic law declared to be a "supplement of the public educational system" of the District. It is important that public library facilities should be provided in some systematic way. The board of trustees believe that steps should be taken promptly to meet the requirements of the law that the "library shall consist of a central library and such number of branch libraries so located and so supported as to furnish books and other printed matter and information service convenient to the homes and offices of all residents of the said District."

The services of the two educational branches—public schools and library—are different but both are essential. The school covers intensively a period of from 5 to 17 years in the pupil's life; the library covers the entire period of life and the whole range of knowledge. It is imperative in a rapidly changing world to afford educational opportunities for all of the people of the community.

Recognizing the obligation placed upon them to find ways to provide the more adequate library service called for by the library's organic act, the library trustees adopted a five-year building and extension program which was introduced as H. R. 16953 at the last session of Congress by Representative Ernest W. Gibson after hearings before the Gibson Subcommittee of the House District Committee at which the program was presented by the trustees and librarian and indorsed by representatives of various civic organizations.

It is estimated that the outside expense of providing sites and buildings for twelve branches, remodeling of the Conduit Road School when abandoned and enlarging the central library building, including equipment, will be \$1,796,500.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include outstanding contractual obligations.

The commissioners believe that the program is generally sound, that it represents a scientific study of present and future conditions as far as they can be forecast, and that it fits in with the other programs for the development of Washington, notably those for the public schools, the parks and playgrounds, and the proposed municipal center. The question that the commissioners believe should be given consideration in this connection is that of financing the proposed library-extension program. The commissioners hope that Congress will adopt a definite financial program covering this and other municipal betterments.

The library trustees report gratifying growth in the work of the present library organization. Books totaling 1,407,499 and mounted pictures totaling 133,597 were circulated into Washington homes and offices, an increase of 109,094 volumes and 15,171 pictures over 1926. Reference and advisory services were improved and greatly increased. The appropriations for 1927 made possible thorough renovations of the central library and Takoma Park branch buildings, improved equipment, and added to the staff, a few highly trained assistants. The appropriations for 1928 provide staff and books for a subbranch in the Eastern High School and rented quarters for a subbranch in Chevy Chase. The library staff was also increased, so that it was possible to resume a 12-hour schedule on Wednesdays in the central and major branch libraries.

#### PLAYGROUNDS

Two new playgrounds were opened July 1, 1926. Twenty-eight municipal grounds were in operation with supervision for the full 12 months for the first time, with one play station. Thirty-five school grounds were open during the summer and 10 of these grounds remained open daily after school during the school term both fall and spring, so that the number of play centers open at any one time varied from 64 during the summer, 39 in the fall and spring, to 29 in January and February. The department also looks after the Reno tennis courts of the Reno Reservoir in Tenleytown; the 3 municipal swimming pools on the Monument lot; the 3 playground swimming pools and 5 wading pools; and maintains a play station at Children's Hospital. It has been possible to give play facilities to most sections of the District, but not yet within walking distance of all the children of the District. A well-balanced program of athletics has been combined with a sufficient amount of constructive play to keep the children interested.

Washington has done much for the playground movement in general. It was here that the first playground training class for workers was held; it was here that the thought was spread that playgrounds were good for all the children of all the people. Until a playground was opened in the District in a well-to-do neighborhood, playgrounds the country over were for underprivileged children only. It was here that the daily press gave much attention to the needs of playgrounds.

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District of Columbia were carefully supervised by the playground director and a high standard of sportsmanship is maintained.

The awards are for progress and ability in self-mastery rather than mastery of opponents.

Most of the school playgrounds are small and suitable for the youngest children only. The older boys must daily be sent elsewhere to play.

During the summer vacation instruction is given in many kinds of handwork. Exhibitions were held on each ground at the close of the summer season; parents and neighbors were invited to see the work.

During the year several gifts were received by the department that aided in the promotion of activities. The Washington Post gave cups and medals for three field and track meets, namely, boys' track meet on white grounds, girls track meet on white grounds, and boys track meet on colored grounds. With these trophies as an added incentive, interest in the annual meets was increased greatly. Walford Bros., sporting goods dealers, gave two cups as trophies to the eastern and western champions in the elementary-school soccer tournament conducted by this department. Heretofore the sectional winners have not been rewarded. George & Co., clothiers, renewed their annual Christmas gifts of several hundred pairs of gloves and caps to the playground children. These were distributed by the playground directors to those who were most in need.

Our three playground swimming pools were open from 9 to 12 hours per day; Georgetown and Rosedale from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m., where regular swimming classes were held daily. Howard, the only pool for colored people in the city, was open from 6 a. m. until 9 p. m., with mixed bathing from 6 to 9 a. m.; then regular swimming classes both morning and afternoon. The attendance at Georgetown pool was 10,402 boys and 9,123 girls, making a total of 19,525. The attendance at Rosedale pool was 18,121 boys and 14,870 girls and women, making a total of 32,991. For Howard pool, boys and men, 26,733; girls and women, 9,914; making a total of 36,647; total for pools, 89,163.

Under the direction of Mr. F. J. Brunner, superintendent of the municipal bathing pools, hundreds of girls and boys attended the elementary instruction classes. In addition to elementary instruction there were classes in life saving and fancy diving which were taken advantage of by the swimmers of the city, both men and women. The pools were open from 6 a. m. until 6 p. m., with mixed bathing the first three hours. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the pools were open from 9 to 4 for girls; from 4 to 6 for men; 3,495 attended classes; 57,554 total attendance at pools.

Two new playgrounds were equipped for use this year, and the apparatus on all grounds has been kept in order by the repair force, under the supervision of the inspector of playgrounds. All equipment has been periodically inspected as to safety.

The playgrounds of Washington have now been in operation 24 years, and at no time has there been sufficient funds to put these playgrounds in good shape. Many of the old grounds are now in need of resurfacing; the new sites need grading; they all need landscaping; some need the installing of water mains, building fences, and most of them need a community or field house and wading pools.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The authorized uniformed force of the police department comprised a total of 1,347 members, inclusive of 63 special street railway crossing policemen, who are subject to the same rules and regulations and are entitled to the same privileges as are other members of the force but whose salaries are paid by the several street railway companies.

The members of the force are classified as follows:

Major and superintendent	1
Assistant superintendents	2
Inspectors	5
Captains	13
Lieutenants	22
Sergeants	56
Privates	1,185
Privates (street railway crossing force)	63
Total	1,347

On June 30, 1927, there were 265 men assigned to special duty and detail work as follows:

Clerks, traffic bureau	8
Clerks, detective bureau	10
Coal dump, First and M Streets NE	1
Highway Bridge over Potomac River	3
Municipal Building (outside)	1
Patrol wagons and signal system (all stations)	42
Patrol drivers, stations and bureaus	45
Photographers, detective bureau	4
Police headquarters, printing daily bulletin	1
Station clerks, all stations	44
Examiners for operator's permits (traffic bureau)	8
Traffic posts (8 hours each)	27
Union Station (8 hours each)	6
Railroad station, Seventh and Virginia Avenue SW	1
Enforcing prohibition law	18
Hack inspectors	4
Precinct detectives	14
Traffic repair shop (supervising mechanics)	1
Court van (as guard)	1
Disbursing officer (as guard)	1
Tax collector's office (as guard)	1
Police headquarters (as clerks)	12
Night inspection service	2
Police court	1
Police court (in cell room)	1
Police court (assistant corporation counsel's office)	3
United States attorney's office	3
Police school (as instructor)	1
Sanitary officer	1
Total	265

*Regular force*

June 30, 1926:

Available force	1,281
Vacancy	1
Vacancy created by Congress, July 1, 1926	1
Vacancy created by promotion, Feb. 9, 1927	1
Full complement	1,284

## June 30, 1927:

Resigned	18
Removed	26
Died	4
Pensioned	5
Vacancies created by promotions	3
Retired without pension	1
Total	57
Appointments	57
Authorized complement	1, 284
Total available force as of June 30, 1927	1, 284

*Street-crossing force*

## June 30, 1926:

Available force	62
Vacancy as of June 30, 1926	1
Full complement	63

## June 30, 1927:

Resigned	7
Removed	2
Total	9
Appointments	9
Authorized complements June 30, 1927	63
Total available force as of June 30, 1927	63

## DISCIPLINE

During the year it was necessary to place 210 members of the force before the Metropolitan police trial board on charges for unofficerlike conduct.

Of the men thus cited, 59 cases were dismissed; in 99 instances a fine was imposed; 19 men were removed, 1 reprimanded and warned, 14 required to pay just debts, 14 were warned, and on 4 occasions the findings of the board were reversed.

Seven members of the force were dropped either during or at the expiration of their probationary year for unsatisfactory service.

## DEATHS

The department lost four members by death, namely, Detective Sergeant Arthur B. Scrivener, Privates Leo W. K. Busch, Harry E. Beck, and Vernon W. Connor.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

The arrests for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, totaled 91,363, as against 93,208 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, a decrease of 1,845. Of this number, 53,302 were white and 38,061 colored; 81,322 were males and 10,041 females. Of the total number of those arrested, 89,741 were able to read and write and 1,622 were unable to do so.

Of the total number of those arrested 2,696 were under the age of 17 years; 9,544 were over 17 and under 21 years of age, and 79,123 were over 21 years of age.

Arrests for misdemeanors totaled 86,924, as compared with 89,220 for the preceding year, a decrease of 2,296.

Arrests for felonies totaled 4,439, as compared with 3,988 for the previous year, a net increase of 451.

*Vice repression*

	1926	1927	Increase	Decrease
Adultery.....	176	166	-----	10
Fornication.....	785	874	89	-----
Keeping bawdy house.....	5	6	1	-----
Keeping disorderly house.....	229	245	16	-----
Pandering.....	10	2	-----	8
Soliciting prostitution.....	265	151	-----	114
Vagrancy.....	574	632	58	-----
Violation white slave traffic law.....	10	17	7	-----
Making handbook on races.....	35	47	12	-----
Setting up gaming table.....	5	128	123	-----
Permitting gambling.....	434	451	17	-----
Violation antinarcotic laws.....	47	56	9	-----
Total.....	2, 575	2, 775	332	132
Net increase.....			200	-----

## ENFORCEMENT OF THE LIQUOR LAWS

The department continues to maintain its established attitude of vigorous enforcement of the essential laws relating to the manufacture, sale, and use of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, as will be evidenced by the following figures for the past four years:

	1924	1925	1926	1927
<b>Volstead law:</b>				
Conspiracy to defeat the Volstead law.....	46	48	22	12
Illegal possession of liquor.....	1, 828	2, 949	2, 943	2, 820
Selling liquor.....	1, 395	1, 452	1, 070	1, 010
Transporting liquor.....	890	1, 181	1, 158	963
Maintaining a nuisance under Volstead law.....	23	28	21	4
Destroying evidence in liquor cases.....	16	7	3	-----
Manufacturing liquor.....	26	41	102	53
Illegal possession of still.....	6	9	31	9
Miscellaneous offenses.....	12	40	4	-----
Total arrests for Volstead law.....	4, 239	5, 738	5, 354	4, 899
<b>Sheppard law:</b>				
Intoxication.....	8, 874	10, 869	12, 891	13, 588
Operating a vehicle while intoxicated <sup>1</sup> .....	655	712	770	40
Drinking in public.....	186	232	161	115
Total arrests for Sheppard law.....	9, 715	11, 813	13, 822	13, 743
<b>Seizures under Volstead law:</b>				
Alcohol.....gallons.....	1, 571	2, 478	1, 058	602
Brandy.....do.....	22	75	392	391
Benedictine.....do.....	-----	4	5	-----
Champagne.....do.....	7	6	13	39
Cognac.....do.....	5	73	25	38
Cordials.....do.....	75	-----	-----	-----
Gin.....do.....	1, 083	573	271	203
Rum.....do.....	11	27	8	6
Whisky.....do.....	7, 885	13, 685	20, 966	23, 916
Crene de menthe.....do.....	-----	-----	-----	8
Vermuth.....do.....	-----	-----	-----	2
Cider.....do.....	1, 596	4, 068	728	100
Wine.....do.....	2, 086	887	2, 158	261
Total liquor seized.....do.....	14, 341	21, 896	25, 624	25, 566
<b>Beer.....</b> (barrels).....	-----	20	27	-----
<b>Extracts.....</b> (gallons).....	4, 162	4, 485	5, 130	13, 420
<b>Mash.....</b> (bottles).....	448	745	414	72
<b>Stills.....</b> (gallons).....	2, 520	7, 347	51, 200	47, 352
	26	54	114	95
<b>Vehicles—</b>				
Bicycles.....	3	1	6	13
Motor vehicles.....	145	301	413	555
Wagons.....	2	3	8	6
Total number of wagons seized.....	150	305	427	574

<sup>1</sup> Operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated is carried under traffic violations in 1927.

## ACTIVITIES OF DETECTIVE BUREAU

Value of property reported stolen, including 3,485 automobiles	\$1, 402, 102. 86
Value of property reported lost	75, 983. 33
Total value of lost and stolen property	1, 478, 086. 19
Value of property recovered	441, 203. 41
Total arrests	3, 594
Convictions	1, 861
Cases dismissed	932
Cases nolle-prossed	310
Cases not disposed of	491
Total	3, 594

## AUTOMOBILE THEFT PROBLEM

To such an extent has the theft of automobiles grown that it has been found necessary to assign four detective sergeants and one private to the special duty of investigating such thefts and the recovery, to the fullest extent possible, of automobiles reported stolen.

The following table will give an adequate idea of the magnitude of the undertaking:

Number of automobiles reported stolen	3, 485
Recovered by automobile squad	732
Recovered by owners	665
Recovered by precincts	1, 830
Not recovered	258
Total	3, 485
Arrests by automobile squad	447
Convictions	239
Cases nolle-prossed	41
Cases dismissed	104
Cases pending	63
Total	447
Value of property recovered by automobile squad	\$310, 820. 30

## SANITARY BUREAU

During the year ended June 30, 1927, 353 patients were admitted to St. Elizabeths Hospital, out of whom 4 were readmission cases. Three hundred and eighty-seven persons were taken into the custody of the police and held for mental observation.

## TRAFFIC BUREAU

The traffic bureau is in command of an inspector of police, who cooperates with the director of traffic in making necessary surveys of traffic conditions and discharges many important functions and duties in connection with the regulation and control of traffic.

Not the least important of the functions of this bureau is the examination of all persons applying for permits to operate motor vehicles in the District of Columbia; these examinations are being conducted by members of the Metropolitan police force and consist of oral or writ-



ten examination to determine the applicant's knowledge of the regulations and a road test to determine applicant's ability to operate a motor vehicle.

During the last fiscal year 30,434 applicants for permits to operate motor vehicles were examined, and of this number, 19,694 were successful in passing the test and 10,740 failed.

There were 78 traffic deaths as against 86 during the preceding year. In 21 of these cases the drivers of the vehicles responsible were held for the action of the grand jury—in one case no inquest was held, and in all other cases verdicts of accidental death were returned.

Forty-seven persons were seriously injured, as against 134 persons so injured during the preceding year, and 3,137 persons sustained minor injuries in traffic accidents, as against 3,120 for the previous year.

#### BOARD OF SURGEONS

Members of the force were granted sick leave totaling 19,826 days during the fiscal year. A total of 6,426 visits to the clinic were made by members of the force, which indicates that the officers very properly availed themselves of the services of the board of surgeons whenever necessary.

The board made a total of 912 visits to the homes of members of the force, and rendered a like service on 312 occasions to members of the United States park police force, and on 58 occasions to members of the White House police force.

#### SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

The school of instruction was maintained during the year, four separate classes, totaling 123 members of the force, benefiting by a 30-day course of intensive instruction and training.

#### WOMAN'S BUREAU

During the last fiscal year the woman's bureau dealt with 851 cases, of which number 346 were under 17 years of age, 149 between the ages of 17 and 21, and 356 over 21 years of age. Of the above number 206 were males and 645 females; 528 were white and 323 colored.

A general patrol was maintained, and 2,077 inspections were made of moving-picture theaters, 838 cafés, 337 dance halls, and 192 parks. The public-convenience stations were supervised on 46 different occasions and 1,468 complaints were investigated. In addition to the above, 4,048 inspections of stores were made, resulting in 477 persons being taken into custody; 183 truants were found, 51 juveniles taken to their homes, and 106 persons warned; 1,164 persons were reported as missing—931 from the District of Columbia and 233 from other jurisdictions. Of the local residents, 226 were located by members of the woman's bureau and 29 from out of the city. In 478 cases persons voluntarily returned to their homes in this city and 137 returned to out-of-town homes. At present 77 are still missing from the District of Columbia and 58 from other jurisdictions, no reports being available.

## HOUSE OF DETENTION

There were 3,980 inmates at the house of detention during the year. Of this number 475 were lodgers and 3,505 detained.

The average number of inmates per day was 47.45, and the average number of days was 4.35 per inmate.

There were 50,748 meals served to prisoners and lodgers at a total cost of \$9,230.59; the cost per meal being \$0.18 plus.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) The enactment of legislation necessary to provide for a minimum patrol force of 1,500 men.

(2) The strength of the detective bureau to be increased to at least 100 men, to be in two classes, 50 to correspond with the present detective sergeants and 50 second-grade sergeants, who would draw half the additional allowance now authorized.

(3) An increase of men assigned to motor-cycle duty to at least 150 men in order that the department may be enabled to maintain at each station a continuous assignment of one motor-cycle officer equipped for immediate response to any emergency call.

(4) *Conferring of enforcement power of the Volstead Act upon each and every member of the police force.*—It is considered necessary that every member of the force should have the same authority in the enforcement of the national prohibition act as of any other criminal law within the District of Columbia, and in order that the department may be successful in dealing with violations of this act sufficient authority should be conferred by Congress upon all members of the department.

(5) *Police control of clubs.*—Legislation should be secured providing for the definite control of incorporated clubs.

A number of clubs have been recently established in the District of Columbia, admission being confined to bona fide members, and while it is generally known that the law is being violated therein, it is difficult, and in most cases impossible, for the police to obtain evidence sufficient upon which to secure a warrant.

(6) *Police supervision of dances and dance halls.*—Legislation should be enacted defining the term "dance hall," and for definite and complete supervision of all places and persons licensed under such law.

(7) *Vagrancy law.*—It is again recommended that Congress enact legislation relative to an effective vagrancy law.

(8) *Fugitive law.*—Recommendation is again made for a law under which the police can hold and the courts commit for reasonable periods of time persons arrested by the police of the District of Columbia for offenses committed in other jurisdictions.

(9) *Concealed-weapon law.*—An examination of the records with respect to the commission of crimes of violence will present a sufficiently convincing argument as to the imperative need of legislation regulating the sale, carrying, and possession of dangerous weapons, and such recommendation is renewed.

(10) *Guides.*—In this jurisdiction there is no law or regulation governing the activities of the city guide. Any person desiring to follow such calling has only to secure a badge with the words

"authorized guide," pin the same upon his coat, and engage in the business without any authorization of law. Legislation should be had on this subject.

(11) *Drug addiction and medical practice regulations.*—It is again recommended that legislation be enacted making drug addiction in the District of Columbia a felony, and that the medical practice act be amended so as to provide for adequate regulation of persons practicing as chiropractors and osteopaths and of all persons who attempt to treat disease, injury, or deformity.

(12) *False reports.*—It is again suggested that a law be enacted which will make it a misdemeanor for any individual to make false or fictitious report to the police of the commission of a crime in the District of Columbia.

(13) *Special street-railway crossing policemen.*—In the report submitted for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925, an outline of the various acts of Congress providing for the establishment and maintenance of the force of special street-railway crossing policemen was fully set forth, and recommendation was made for the transfer of these men to the rolls of the Metropolitan police force.

(14) *Installation of radio and teletype systems.*—There should be installed an up-to-date radio broadcasting station at headquarters with receiving sets at all stations and bureaus, as well as at police booths, and posts on bridges and roads which provide egress from the city; all department motor vehicles engaged in patrol work should also be so equipped.

There is urgent need for the installation of the teletype system for intercommunication between headquarters and the various stations and bureaus.

The installation of such a system would eliminate the method now employed, which gives no assurance of accuracy, and would provide a mechanical system whereby the messages are written or typed at headquarters and simultaneously reproduced at all stations.

#### THE DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC

Compared with previous years, traffic accidents in Washington during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, continued to show improvement, notwithstanding the increase in the number of cars and new drivers.

Traffic fatalities amounted to 78, as compared with 82 during 1926 and 86 during 1925.

There were 5,911 traffic accidents, as compared with 8,049 during 1926 and 9,378 during 1925. Thus it appears that during the past few years there has been a steady and consistent decrease not only in the number of traffic fatalities but also in the number of traffic accidents.

Twenty-two per cent of the fatalities and 23 per cent of the accidents were children under 14 years of age.

The chief causes of motor-vehicle accidents, as based on the past year's experience, are as follows: Reckless driving, careless driving and walking, pedestrians crossing street not at crosswalk and stepping from behind parked cars, motorists failing to yield right of way, driving under influence of liquor, loss of control of vehicle and

skidding, playing in street, backing and turning in street without giving proper signal, pedestrians intoxicated, cutting in, and defective brakes and steering gear.

As indicated in the previous year's report, the peak hours for accidents continue to be between 4 and 7 p. m. This corresponds with the afternoon peak hours of traffic.

A study of the year's accidents indicates that the majority occurred during daylight, when the weather was clear and the road surface dry. About one-fifth of all accidents occurred on wet asphalt pavements and about one-third of all accidents occurred at night.

Motor-vehicle operators' permits issued between August, 1903, and July 6, 1926, were renewed during the year for a three-year period. The amounts received for all permits during the fiscal year were as follows:

New permits, 343, <sup>1</sup> at \$1 each.....	\$343. 00
New permits, 17,667 at \$3 each.....	53, 007. 00
Renewals, 90,794, at \$3 each.....	272, 406. 00
Duplicates, 1,737, <sup>2</sup> at \$0.50 each.....	886. 50
Total .....	326, 642. 50

In the renewal of these permits the records of all drivers were carefully searched. Where the drivers were found to have records involving serious infractions of the traffic law and regulations, the permits were either canceled and renewal refused, or the drivers called in for examination, depending upon the seriousness of the offenses.

#### COLOR VISION TEST

To the regular examination involving vision tests and examination on the regulation there has been added during the year a color vision test to determine whether or not applicants for permits are color blind.

#### REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF OPERATORS' PERMITS

During the year there were revoked and suspended 885 motor vehicle operators' permits for the following reasons:

Driving while under the influence of liquor or drugs.....	400
Leaving after colliding.....	126
Reckless driving.....	94
Renewal of permits refused and old permits revoked or suspended.....	70
Bad records.....	63
Speeding.....	49
Right of foreign motorists to operate in the District of Columbia for various offenses.....	26
Miscellaneous offenses.....	28
Involved in traffic fatalities.....	16
Obtaining permits by fraud.....	9
Mentally unfit.....	4
Total.....	885

During the year 319 permits were restored.

The change in law giving the director of traffic and his assistant greater authority to cancel and suspend permits for any cause which

<sup>1</sup> These permits were issued during the period from July 1 to July 6, 1926, before the new law providing for the renewal program was put into operation.

<sup>2</sup> 90 of these duplicates were issued during the period from July 1 to July 6.

may be deemed sufficient has enabled the office to promptly eliminate from the streets many drivers who for various reasons were found to be unsatisfactory. It is believed that the elimination of these drivers has to a considerable extent been responsible for improved traffic conditions during the past year.

#### ENFORCEMENTS OF THE TRAFFIC LAW AND REGULATIONS

The director of traffic has received the full and hearty cooperation of the police department during the past year.

The number of arrests for various traffic violations for 1926 was 43,856, and for 1927 it was 36,126.

Type of violation	Fiscal year 1926	Fiscal year 1927	Type of violation	Fiscal year 1926	Fiscal year 1927
Colliding.....	120	137	Obstructing fire hydrants.....	127	120
Colliding and failing to stop..	323	369	Parking abreast.....	2,007	2,258
Dazzling lights.....	301	26	Parking overtime.....	7,366	7,205
Dead tags.....	237	289	Passing signal.....	1,299	1,123
Driving on wrong side of street.....	281	203	Passing street car.....	429	328
Driving while intoxicated.....	770	642	Reckless driving.....	1,767	1,071
Failing to show permit.....	1,098	882	Violating light regulation.....	6,048	2,914
Loitering (public vehicles).....	66	46	Violating one-way street regu- lation.....	220	126
No District of Columbia tags.....	110	65	Violating speed law.....	6,728	5,049
No District of Columbia per- mit.....	1,317	1,433	Violating other regulations....	12,859	10,794
Obstructing crosswalk.....	383	248	Total.....	43,856	36,128

<sup>1</sup> The usual charge for colliding is reckless driving.

#### ELECTRIC TRAFFIC SIGNALS

During the year just closed the electric traffic signal light system has been considerably extended.

A total of 80 signals were placed in operation, which brings the total number up to 158. These 80 signals are located as follows:

Sixteenth Street, from Euclid to Newton.....	37
Massachusetts Avenue, from Seventh to Tenth Streets, including Mount Vernon Square.....	26
Rhode Island Avenue at Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth Streets....	12
Fifteenth Street, New York and Pennsylvania Avenues (experimental installation).....	4
Twelfth and L Streets NW., 4-way signal (experimental).....	1
Total.....	80

Five flashing beacon safety zone signals were also installed. Four of these are located on Connecticut Avenue between K and Dupont Circle, while one is located at Columbia Road and Eighteenth Street.

The results of the traffic-light installation continues to be marked by a steady decrease in the number of accidents on the streets or intersections controlled by these lights.

No fatalities have occurred on the streets or at the intersections where signal lights have been placed and the number of accidents is very much less than at the same intersections during previous years, and is very much less than on parallel streets where there are no traffic lights.

The installation of the lights has had the effect of actually speeding up the traffic on the streets and at the intersections where they have been installed.

There is now available from funds derived from the renewal of operators' permits a total of \$272,406, which it is planned to obligate, if possible, for additional traffic lights on some of the more important streets before the appropriation is exhausted on December 31, 1927.

Owing to the delays which may occur in advertising for bids, the letting of contracts and the purchase of cable and equipment, it is recommended that the funds now available for this purpose shall remain available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were appropriated.

#### TRAFFIC SURVEY

An exhaustive traffic survey was conducted by this office in cooperation with the National Park and Planning Commission during June, 1927, at a cost of approximately \$3,600.

An excellent traffic-flow map has been prepared, covering about 400 intersections on the more important thoroughfares throughout the District. This traffic count and flow map was urgently needed in the work of the office, especially in the studies being conducted to determine the streets on which traffic lights may be required.

It is highly desirable that a similar count be made at the same time each year in order to show any changes in traffic conditions in various parts of the District.

#### CERTIFICATE OF TITLE LAW

It is believed that the adoption of a certificate of title law for automobiles similar to that which has been adopted in 27 or more of the States would effectually destroy the market for stolen cars in the District.

The adoption of the law in these States has already had a marked effect in reducing the theft of automobiles and the cost of theft insurance, and it is urgently recommended that such a law for the District of Columbia be enacted at the next session of Congress.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

##### FIRE LOSS

The estimated fire loss during the year amounted to \$675,379. This is a decrease of \$593,575 from the amount of loss experienced in 1926. It is indeed gratifying to the commissioners to be able to report such a material lessening of damage from fire.

##### ALARMS OF FIRE

The number of alarms of fire received during the year, 3,088, likewise represents a reduction, the number being 559 less than the 1926 figure. False alarms increased, 379 being recorded.

##### FIRE PREVENTION

Fire-prevention work has been continued with unabated vigilance, and many improvements, especially in the handling and storage of

flammables, have been accomplished; 174,152 fire-prevention inspections were made during the year.

#### DISCIPLINE

Serious infractions of the rules and regulations of the department were few in number, and it was necessary in but two cases to remove the offenders from the service. The conduct of the officers and members of the department has been uniformly excellent.

#### PENSIONS

Twelve officers and members of the department were retired and granted relief. Widows' pensions were granted in three cases.

#### DEATHS

Capt. James Mowatt and Pvt. H. L. Stout died during the year, as did also pensioners S. R. Henry, F. J. Sylvester, Anthony Malone, Eleanora H. Smith, Florence V. Specht, Josephine C. Byrne, and Georgianna Mahorney.

#### NEW HOUSE

The commissioners under date of June 17, 1927, purchased lot 802, square 2698, as a site for new engine house No. 30. This property is located on the southeast corner of Sixteenth and Webster Streets NW.

#### NEW APPARATUS

Three pumping engines, 3 combination hose wagons, 1 aerial truck, and 1 automobile for the chief engineer were received and placed in service during the year.

#### RESCUE SQUAD

The rescue squad of the fire department, placed in service in 1925, has continued to demonstrate its efficiency, and its activities have been greatly increased during the year.

It responded to 331 alarms of fire during the year; was used as an ambulance upon 20 occasions; its officers and members rendered first aid for incised wounds 10 times; for burns 8 times; for drowning 5 times; for gas poisoning 13 times; for cave-ins 3 times; and for attacks of unconsciousness 5 times. Artificial respiration was administered on 18 occasions.

It is hoped that this branch of the service will be extended in the near future. In the meantime, and lacking funds for the establishment of an additional rescue squad, the officers and members of No. 11 Engine Company have been qualified for first-aid service and will, to a certain degree, perform rescue squad work in the territory which that company covers.

#### UNIFORMS

Under the act of Congress approved May 25, 1926, the fire department has purchased uniforms and other official equipment for its

personnel, and under specific rules and regulations adopted by the commissioners the issuance of such material has been properly accomplished with due regard to the appearance of the men and economical management.

#### HEALTH OFFICE

##### POPULATION

The population of the District of Columbia, according to the United States Bureau of the Census, is estimated to be 528,000, of which 394,300 are white and 133,700 colored.

##### MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY STATISTICS

*General mortality.*—The total number of deaths occurring during the calendar year 1926 was 7,388, an increase of 372 over the year preceding. The number of births occurring during the same period decreased from 9,173 in the previous year to 9,004 in the year just closed.

The general death rate declined slightly during the calendar year 1926. The rate for the year 1925 was 14.09 for each 1,000 of population, while in the year just ended it was 13.99.

Of the 7,388 deaths occurring during the year 1926, 4,598 were white and 2,790 colored, the white death rate being 11.66 and the colored 20.87. A comparison of these rates with those of the previous year shows the white death rate increased from 11.37 to 11.66 per 1,000 of population, while the colored declined from 22.68 in the year 1925 to 20.87 in the year just ended.

In considering the most potent cause of death it is found that diseases of the heart rank first with a total of 1,142 deaths, pneumonia was responsible for 807, nephritis 733, pulmonary tuberculosis 532, and apoplexy 516.

##### INFANT MORTALITY

It is very gratifying to note that the death rate in infants under 1 year of age declined from 87.3 for each 1,000 of births reported in the year 1925 to 84.5 during the year just ended, the white rate being 66.7 and the colored 123. The decline in the rate was principally among the colored population.

*Rabies.*—The presence of rabies in the District of Columbia continued throughout the year. The number of animals found to be suffering from that disease increased from 67 in the year 1925 to 117 during the last year. The number of persons reported to have been bitten by dogs was 123, as against 71 during the preceding year. It seems to me that the situation calls for some drastic measure to protect the public from these attacks by vicious or unmuzzled dogs.

I have before recommended to the commissioners that the order requiring the muzzling of dogs, or that they be held in leash while on the public streets in this District, be made operative throughout the entire year and not for a limited period of time as at present. It is hoped that the commissioners will take this matter under further advisement.



## ADMINISTRATION

*Bureau of Preventable Diseases*

During the calendar year 1926 chicken pox, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and pneumonia prevailed to a greater extent than during the preceding year. An epidemic of measles resulted in a total of 6,757 cases of that disease being reported, with 34 deaths. Pneumonia alone caused the death of 807 persons.

*Diphtheria.*—An effort was made during the year to stimulate an interest on the part of parents of children in diphtheria-prevention work by the immunization of their children against the infection of diphtheria through the administration of toxin-antitoxin.

The total number of children so immunized was 2,432. The value of this diphtheria-prevention work has been clearly demonstrated in those cities where it has been carried on more extensively, as shown by a marked reduction in the incidence of the disease and also in the number of deaths therefrom.

*Typhoid fever.*—During the calendar year 1926 the number of cases of typhoid fever recorded in the health department was the smallest since the passage of the law in the year 1907 making the disease a reportable one in this District.

The total number of cases reported for the year was 89. Thirteen of these were brought from near-by States into the District for treatment in the hospitals of this city. In nine other instances the infection was contracted outside of the District of Columbia.

*Smallpox.*—Sixteen cases of smallpox with no deaths were recorded during the year. None of these persons had ever been successfully vaccinated.

The new motor ambulance provided for in the appropriation act of 1927 was placed in operation and enabled the health department to remove patients to the smallpox hospital with much greater comfort and expedition than formerly.

*Smallpox hospital.*—This institution was in active operation 76 days during the year and during that time rendered 158 patient-days service.

*Quarantine station.*—This institution was in active operation 70 days and during that time cared for 25 inmates. The total number of patient-days service rendered was 176.

*Ambulance service.*—This service removed during the year to the isolation hospital buildings for minor contagious diseases a total of 637 patients.

The urgent need for a suitable building, under Government control, for the treatment of persons suffering from minor contagious diseases has been pointed out in several previous reports.

*Disinfecting service.*—One thousand three hundred and sixty-two premises were disinfected for the various contagious diseases.

*Public crematorium.*—Four hundred and twenty-six bodies were cremated during the fiscal year, 43 being adults, 158 infants, and 225 stillborn babies.

*Bacteriological laboratory.*—The work done in this laboratory has steadily increased. During the fiscal year 1927 a total of 22,337 specimens of all kinds were examined, an increase over the previous year of 1,094. Twelve thousand three hundred and eighty-one of these specimens were for the diagnosis of diphtheria, and for the

release from quarantine of persons suffering from that disease. Two thousand nine hundred and twenty-four specimens were examined for tuberculosis. Three hundred and twenty-six specimens of blood were examined for the diagnosis of typhoid fever.

*Lead poison investigation.*—Four hundred smears were collected and examined for stippling cells. These examinations were made in connection with a study that has been under way for sometime to determine the extent of lead hazards in persons employed in certain occupations. A report on the findings developed in this survey has not yet been made.

*Bathing pools.*—Supervision of the various public bathing pools throughout the District has continued throughout the year. A steady improvement has been made in the operation of such pools.

*Wells and water supply.*—The largest number of specimens of drinking water was collected and examined during the year in the history of the laboratory. Many of the samples were collected from private wells at the request of the occupants of the premises.

*Milk, cream, and ice cream.*—The milk and ice cream sold in this District has been closely supervised during the year. The quality and purity of the products were found to comply with the legal standards fixed in the law relating to the sale of milk and cream in this District.

*Serological laboratory.*—Eight thousand three hundred and ninety-seven specimens were examined during the fiscal year. This is an increase of 1,937 over the preceding year. Five thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine specimens of blood were subjected to the complement fixation test for syphilis, and 1,883 gave a positive reaction for syphilis. Two thousand one hundred and eighty-seven smears were examined for gonococci, 557 of which showed the presence of that organism.

*Chemical laboratory.*—The total number of specimens of all kinds examined during the fiscal year was 16,103, as follows: Milk, 14,927; cream, 560; other foods, 153; feces and urine for lead poisoning, 50; air, 278; and miscellaneous, 50.

In addition to the above, 46 examinations were made for the police department and 16 for the coroner.

*Dispensaries—Tuberculosis division.*—During the fiscal year just closed 1,185 new patients applied for examination. Three hundred and thirty-seven of these were found to be suffering from tuberculosis, 338 showed no sign of that disease, and in the other 510 cases a definite diagnosis is still pending.

The total number of visits to the dispensary made by all the patients was 7,364. The nurses connected with the dispensary made a total of 5,239 visits to the homes of patients. One thousand one hundred and seventy-four X-ray pictures were made.

*Venereal-disease division.*—Two thousand eight hundred and thirty-six new patients applied for examination and treatment during the fiscal year. Three thousand one hundred and nine "Wassermanns" were made, 4,636 salvarsan injections, and 5,315 mercury injections were given. The total number of visits made to the dispensary by all patients was 18,438. One thousand and nineteen visits were made by nurses to homes of patients.

The building in which these two dispensaries are located is owned by the United States Government, and will probably shortly be torn

down to make room for one of the new Government buildings to be erected on this ground.

*Medical and dental inspection of public schools.*—The medical and dental inspection in the public schools of this District is one of the most important branches of the health department work. A much larger corps of medical and dental inspectors and school nurses is badly needed in order to give the children in the schools the care that they are entitled to: More dental clinics are also urgently needed.

The present force consists of 1 chief medical and sanitary inspector, 12 medical inspectors, 4 dental inspectors, and 8 dental operators, all of which are only part-time employees. In addition there are 10 school nurses and 4 dental hygienists.

The total number of physical examinations made by the medical inspectors during the year was 41,776. Only 3,761 pupils attending the kindergarten and first grades were given a complete physical examination. Two thousand four hundred and forty-three pupils were excluded from school for various causes during the year. Three thousand seven hundred and sixty-one kindergarten and first-grade pupils were physically examined during the year, 95 per cent of whom were found to have some physical defect.

Of one hundred and twenty-four pupils who were retarded in their classes, 96.7 per cent were found to have some physical defect.

Seven hundred and ninety-two pupils were examined for child-labor permits, and of this number 287 were given permits, 500 were granted temporary permits, and 5 refused permits.

One thousand and ninety-five applicants for appointment as teachers or for admission to the normal school were given careful physical examinations; 366, or 33.4 per cent, were passed, 674, or 61.5 per cent, were passed conditionally, 53, or 4.8 per cent, rejected temporarily, and 2 definitely rejected.

Dental inspectors examined 20,270 pupils and 1,095 applicants for admission to the normal-school or teaching positions, the total number of examinations made being 21,365.

Dental operators treated a total of 4,568 pupils during the school year, necessitating a total of 37,948 operations. The dental hygienists gave prophylactic treatment to 7,307 pupils.

The school nurses handled a total of 15,932 pupils during the school year.

*Report of sanitary officer.*—During the fiscal year 1927, 387 persons were taken into custody by the police and held for mental observation. Three hundred and fifty-three were admitted to St. Elizabeths Hospital and the following statement shows the disposition of these cases:

Tried and adjudged insane in lunacy court and returned to hospital.....	275
Adjudged not insane.....	27
Proceedings dismissed on motion of counsel for the District of Columbia and released.....	10
Discharged by superintendent of hospital before trial.....	23
Died before trial.....	8
Admitted to hospital on duplicate permit.....	1
Cases remaining undisposed of at close of year.....	7
Left court room with attorney or relatives.....	1
Found of unsound mind, but without suicidal, homicidal, or otherwise dangerous tendencies and released.....	1
Total.....	353

## BUREAU OF FOOD INSPECTION

The number of food-producing and vending establishments in the District of Columbia registered in the health department was 4,235. These establishments were inspected an average of 24.47 times during the year.

The total number of inspections made by all food inspectors for the year was 112,204. The number of dairy farms authorized to ship milk or cream into Washington was 1,605, being an increase of 69 over the preceding year. The cattle on these farms numbered 110,605.

## BUREAU OF SANITARY INSPECTION

*General-nuisance inspections.*—Approximately 91,550 official visits of all kinds were made by the sanitary inspectors during the year. Seventy-one thousand three hundred and ninety-three of these visits were made necessary by complaints of nuisances; violation of the laws or regulations for the prevention and abatement of nuisances were reported in 12,122 instances.

It was necessary in 237 instances to refer the matter to the police court in order to secure the abatement of the nuisance.

In 37 instances it was found necessary for the District to cause the abatement of nuisances existing on certain property of which the owners were nonresidents of the District. The cost of this work was \$1,828.25, which amount was assessed as a tax against the property concerned.

*Boarding homes for children.*—During the year 515 inspections were made. There has been a great improvement noted in the manner in which these homes have been maintained. Up to the present time 144 homes have been given permits to operate.

*Mattress law.*—On July 3, 1926, "An act to regulate the manufacture, renovation, and sale of mattresses in the District of Columbia" was approved. Pursuant to authority conferred in section 6 of this act, regulations for the government of this industry were promulgated by the commissioners on October 12, 1926. Since the passage of this act 111 manufacturers and dealers in mattresses in the District have registered in the health department their names and location of their establishments.

*Smoke inspection.*—Fifteen thousand, two hundred and twenty-four observations were made during the year. One hundred and seventy-four cases of violations of the law were referred to corporation counsel for prosecution, resulting in fines and forfeitures amounting to \$1,580.

*Eight-hour female labor law.*—During the year 130 complaints of alleged violation of the law regulating the hours of employment of females were received and acted upon. Twenty-six prosecutions were instituted during the year for violation of this law.

## CHILD-HYGIENE SERVICE

The number of persons availing themselves of the opportunities offered at the various child-hygiene stations has steadily increased.

During the fiscal year 1927 two additional stations were established, one at 5327 Georgia Avenue NW. and the other at 1201 Talbert Street SE.

The operation of these stations has supplied a need in the sections of the city in which they are located that has long been felt.

It is the purpose during the current fiscal year to establish another new station at 2012 Rhode Island Avenue NE.

The total number of visits made to the various stations during the year was 39,910, of which 27,314 were made by white children and 12,596 by colored.

The nurses made a total of 20,992 visits to the homes of children.

#### THE POUND SERVICE

The pound service captured while running at large in the District of Columbia, in violation of law, 3,357 dogs, while 1,247 additional were surrendered by owners. Twenty-four horses, one cow, and one goat were also captured.

The amount of pound fees collected during the year was \$2,503.25, all of which was deposited with the collector of taxes, District of Columbia.

#### BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

Ten thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven letters and 7,061 oral complaints were received during the year. Thirteen thousand six hundred and fifty-six letters were sent out by the department.

#### BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Nine thousand three hundred and six births, 521 stillbirths, and 7,402 deaths were recorded during the year.

Three thousand three hundred and fifteen transcripts from the records of births and deaths were issued.

#### BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The Board of Public Welfare in its first annual report recounts the organization of the board under the act which became effective July 1, 1926, and establishes a Board of Public Welfare superseding the Board of Charities, the Board of Children's Guardians, and the Board of Trustees of the National Training School for Girls.

The first year of the board's activities has been devoted largely to familiarizing members with the various institutions and agencies committed to its care and in effecting such reorganization as was required by the new law.

An important new activity was instituted under the law providing home care for dependent children approved June 22, 1926. This law, similar to laws in most of the States generally referred to as "mothers' pension" acts, provides for the granting of allowances to mothers or guardians of children to insure the bringing up of such children in their own homes and thus avoid their commitment to public guardianship.

In connection with the reorganization of the new and enlarged activities, the commissioners, upon recommendation of the Board of Public Welfare, created the position of assistant director and appointed an incumbent to that position.

The board urges early action under the act approved March 3, 1927, which authorizes the sale of the Industrial Home School property on

Wisconsin Avenue and the use of the funds thus obtained for the purchase of site and the erection of buildings for a new institution.

The contract has been let and work is proceeding satisfactorily in the erection of the new \$1,000,000 building for the Gallinger Municipal Hospital.

The new wing of the jail has been completed and is ready for occupancy as soon as money is appropriated for the necessary guards.

Three of the new buildings at the District School for Feeble Minded have been completed and over 100 children have already been admitted to the school. A large number of applications are pending and children will be admitted as rapidly as additional room can be provided.

The report shows a marked increase in the number of prisoners at the jail and workhouse, an especially large number of commitments for intoxication being made.

The erection of new buildings at the reformatory and workhouse has progressed satisfactorily. An important new industry at the reformatory is the manufacture of automobile tags for the District. A very satisfactory tag is being made and will be delivered in ample time to avoid delay in issuance. A foundry plant and canning factory have also been installed at the reformatory.

The need of additional facilities for heat, power, and water supply at the workhouse and reformatory is emphasized because of the growth and development of these institutions.

#### ALIENIST

The work of the alienist comes in contact and active cooperation with the following departments of the District government: Police department (including the women's bureau), Board of Children's Guardians, Department of Public Welfare, police court, juvenile court, Home for the Aged and Infirm, corporation counsel's office, Government Hospital for the Insane, Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, District Jail, United States Veterans' Bureau, Health Department of the District of Columbia, and many of the social-service activities of the District of Columbia, including the Board of Catholic Charities.

During the year there were 49 visits made to St. Elizabeths Hospital. During these visits 462 cases were examined prior to their appearance in court. In these cases it was necessary to appear in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia on 45 days, and in addition to these there were 4 days in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for the commitment of cases which had been examined at the Gallinger Municipal Hospital for the purpose of committing them to the District Training School.

In the psychopathic ward of the Gallinger Municipal Hospital, which is under the direction of the alienist, 2,078 cases were examined and disposed of. Of this number 974 were alcoholics and 66 drug addicts, 197 cases were found to be not psychotic, 286 were transferred to St. Elizabeths Hospital. This was 79 less than the number transferred to St. Elizabeths last year. Quite a large number of cases were examined, including those received from the other departments of the District government, and special report

was given to those interested concerning their mental condition and suggestions as to the proper care and treatment that each case seemed to require, and in many cases a detailed physical examination was made and reported on. A full report of the psychopathic department of the Gallinger Municipal Hospital will be found in the annual report of that institution.

An assistant to the alienist should be provided on a part-time basis at the salary of \$1,200 per annum. This is made necessary by the law, which requires two physicians especially qualified to sign commitments to St. Elizabeths Hospital and the District Training School and to appear in court testifying to the mental condition of these two classes of cases and also to make special examination at the Gallinger Municipal Hospital when required.

Attention is invited to the method of committing and handling of mental cases of those suspected of being of unsound mind in the District of Columbia at the present time. Either a commission of lunacy, such as in successful operation in many of our States, notably that of New York and Illinois, should be created or the present procedure be modified, as has been advocated for a number of years before the various committees of Congress.

#### VETERINARY SURGEON

The veterinary surgeon reported that during the fiscal year 1927 there was the usual amount of sickness and injuries generally occurring among the number of animals owned by the District of Columbia, but there was no outbreak of contagious disease. All horses and mules reported or found sick were treated either at their stable or at the city refuse hospital stable. Forty-six horses and mules were transferred from one department to another, where their services were more suitable or needed. Five horses and mules were killed to prevent their suffering, as they were of no value and incurable. Sixteen horses died of natural causes. There are now on hand in the veterinary department 430 horses and mules, and their general health is good.

#### BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

During the fiscal year 1927 the board of examiners in veterinary medicine held three meetings. One person applied for a license to practice veterinary medicine in the District of Columbia, but failed to pass the requisite examination.

#### *Receipts and disbursements*

Balance June 30, 1926.....	\$24.99
Fees received during fiscal year 1927.....	36.00
	60.99
Expenditures.....	11.16
Balance on June 30, 1927.....	49.83

#### CORONER

The coroner reports that during the year he made investigations to determine the causes of deaths, as follows: From natural causes,

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1,236; from violence and accident, 323; from suicide, 94; and from homicide, 70; that his office held 169 inquests and performed 202 autopsies. Six hundred and two bodies were taken to the morgue.

### Receipts

Salaries .....	\$7, 100. 00
Maintenance .....	5, 600. 00
Total .....	<u>12, 700. 00</u>

### Expenditures

Salaries .....	7, 039. 92
Laundry, gas, and electric power .....	102. 02
Office supplies .....	19. 36
Gasoline and oil for morgue truck .....	54. 63
Coal and wood .....	128. 49
Witness and juror fees .....	3, 520. 00
Autopsies .....	1, 285. 00
Repairs to morgue truck .....	29. 59
Repairs to morgue building .....	454. 14
Balance of salaries appropriation .....	60. 08
Balance of maintenance appropriation .....	6. 77
Total .....	<u>12, 700. 00</u>

## BOARD OF PHARMACY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Eight regular and two special meetings were held for the transaction of business. Four regular examinations were held, resulting in the licensing of 45 applicants. Thirty-six licenses were issued through reciprocal arrangements with other jurisdictions.

Three permits for the sale of poisons for use in the arts or as insecticides were renewed and one original issued.

The register shows the following unrevoked licenses to practice pharmacy in the District of Columbia. Series A, 542; series B, 272; series C, 556.

### Receipts

Balance in bank at last audit .....	\$969. 90
Cash on hand .....	4. 50
Total receipts from fees during 1927 .....	<u>2, 047. 50</u>
	\$3, 021. 90

### Disbursements

Five members, at \$194 each .....	970. 00
Printing and supplies .....	272. 86
Clerical service .....	250. 00
Delegate to convention, expenses .....	200. 00
Postage .....	25. 00
Dues, National Association Board of Pharmacy .....	25. 00
Refunds to depositors .....	40. 00
Engrossing certificates .....	20. 75
Janitor service .....	12. 00
Premium on treasurer's bond .....	5. 00
Total expenses .....	<u>1, 820. 61</u>
Cash in hands of secretary .....	67. 50
	<u>1, 888. 11</u>
Balance unexpended .....	<u>1, 133. 79</u>



## BOARD OF MEDICAL SUPERVISORS

During the fiscal year 1927 the board of medical supervisors examined 153 applicants for license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, 96 of whom were passed, 5 failed, 3 were withdrawn, and 53 were continued under consideration.

Twenty-four applications were made for license under the provisions of law providing for reciprocity with other jurisdictions, of which 18 were approved and 6 rejected.

*Receipts and disbursements*

Available balance on hand July 1, 1926	\$1, 973. 05
Receipts during fiscal year	2, 400. 56
Outstanding check	50. 00
	\$4, 423. 61
Disbursements during fiscal year 1927	2, 583. 91
Total	1, 839. 70
Less outstanding check	50. 00
Available balance July 1, 1927	1, 789. 70

Of the unobligated balance of \$1,789.70 shown above, the following distributions were made for services:

Compensation to secretary-treasurer	\$600. 00
Compensation to members of the board of medical supervisors	769. 50
Compensation to members of the board of medical examiners	355. 20
Compensation to members of the board of homeopathic examiners	25. 00
Reserve	40. 00
Total	1, 789. 70

## BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

This board was created by an act approved June 6, 1892 (27 Stat., p. 42), as amended by act approved June 7, 1924 (43 Stat., pt. 1, p. 599).

During the fiscal year 1927 the board issued licenses to 18 persons to practice dentistry and certificates to 3 persons as dental hygienists.

Five hundred and seventy-eight dentists and 30 dental hygienists were registered and an annual certificate for the year 1927 issued to each of them.

One person was convicted and fined for practicing dentistry without a license and one for permitting an unlicensed person to operate dentistry in his office.

The annual bulletin (No. 3) was printed and mailed to each dentist and dental hygienist named therein.

*Receipts*

Balance on hand July 1, 1926	\$555. 38
Annual registration of dentists	564. 00
Annual registration of oral hygienists	27. 00
Registration penalty—dentists	60. 00
Registration penalty—hygienists	10. 00
Examination of dentists January, 1927	202. 50
Examination of dentists June, 1927	405. 00
Examination of oral hygienists	30. 25
Certificates January, 1927	3. 00
Certificates June, 1927	10. 00
	1, 867. 13

*Expenditures*

Compensation of members of the board.....	\$930. 00
Salaries of clerks.....	561. 00
Printing.....	80. 25
Miscellaneous.....	140. 37
Cash on hand.....	1. 00
	<u>\$1, 712. 62</u>
Balance on hand.....	154. 51

## THE NURSES' EXAMINING BOARD

The nurses examining board held 10 meetings during the fiscal year and 2 examinations. One hundred and eighty-eight nurses took the examinations, of which number 181 passed, 75 with honor—that is, with an average of 90 per cent or over. Seven failed. Sixteen nurses were registered through reciprocity and 1 under waiver, making a total of 205 nurses registered.

There were inspections made of five training schools.

An amendment to increase the nurses' registration fee from \$5 to \$15, prepared by the nurses examining board and sent to Congress with the approval of the commissioners, passed the Senate but was defeated in the House. The board, therefore, is still very much embarrassed for sufficient funds to carry on its work.

*Receipts*

Brought forward.....	\$886. 42
Fees collected.....	1, 142. 84
Check from Graduate Nurses Association of the District of Columbia.....	435. 18
Interest.....	1. 88
Total.....	<u>2, 466. 32</u>

*Expenditures*

Members compensation on account (1925-26).....	798. 00
Members compensation balance (1925-26).....	440. 00
Stationery and printing.....	151. 60
Engraving certificates.....	100. 10
Stamps, registered mail, etc.....	80. 00
E. A. Wright Co. (500 certificates).....	125. 56
Advertisement of examination in Star and Post.....	13. 90
Fees refunded.....	45. 00
Miss Melby (compensation, 1927).....	130. 50
Miss Sebastian (compensation, 1927).....	102. 25
Compensation due members.....	878. 25
Needed for running expenses.....	90. 00
Total.....	<u>2, 955. 16</u>
Deficit.....	488. 84

## BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

The board of accountancy held 11 formal meetings during the fiscal year 1927. Twenty-seven candidates for certificates were examined and eight certificates were issued.

*Receipts*

Examination fees.....	\$500. 00
Reexamination fees.....	100. 00
Fees for certificates.....	11. 00
Sale of examination questions.....	3. 50
	<u>\$614. 50</u>

*Expenses*

Printing.....	\$149.50	
Letterheads.....	49.75	
Certificates.....	69.65	
Office supplies.....	11.00	
Postage.....	19.25	
Stenographic service.....	42.50	
Advertising.....	15.30	
Examination supplies.....	15.80	
		\$372.75
Balance on hand.....		241.75

*Receipts*

Balance July 1, 1926.....	1,415.89
Fees for applications.....	200.00
Fees for certificates.....	124.00
Fees for renewals.....	1,410.00
Interest.....	18.98
	3,168.87

*Expenditures*

Stenography.....	480.00
Printing and stationery.....	163.21
Compensation to board.....	327.00
Lettering of certificates.....	75.00
Rent of office.....	305.00
Mimeographing.....	6.00
Messenger service.....	32.00
Lawyer.....	500.00
National Council of Architecture.....	25.00
File cabinets.....	104.81
Advertising, telephoning, etc.....	40.95
Check deposited.....	30.00
	2,088.97
Unexpended.....	1,079.90
Amount in savings account.....	500.00
Balance in bank.....	1,579.90

## BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

The board met eight times during the year ending June 1, 1927, with full attendance at each meeting.

One limited and two standard examinations were made during that year.

One hundred optometrists had been registered up to the end of that year.

The receipts and expenditures of the board during that period were as follows:

*Receipts*

Balance on hand from last year.....	\$915.38
One application for examination.....	25.00
91 renewal fees of \$5 each.....	455.00
Refund on postal cards.....	1.00
	\$1,396.38

*Expenditures*

Bonding of secretary	\$5.00
Salary of secretary and treasurer	250.00
Printing of stationery	17.75
Engrossing of certificates	2.50
Registering optometrists in supreme court	.50
Newspaper notices	14.16
Stamps	5.00
Miscellaneous	3.10
Compensation to members of board for term of office ending June 1, 1927	500.00
	<u>\$798.01</u>
Balance in bank	598.37

## PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

The public employment bureau of the District of Columbia obtained positions in the following classes without cost to the applicants:

Clerical and professional placements (4¾ per cent of total)	1,472
Hotel and sales (5 per cent of total)	1,552
Domestic (46 per cent of total)	14,467
Skilled and unskilled labor (44 per cent of total)	13,145
Total	<u>30,636</u>

## COMPENSATION OF INJURED EMPLOYEES

Compensation to injured employees of the District of Columbia coming under the Employees' Compensation Commission for the year ending June 30, 1927, was appropriated and disbursed as follows:

*Receipts*

Appropriation for 1927	\$12,000.00
Appropriation for 1928 (anticipated)	<u>15,000.00</u>

*Expenditures*

8 widows	2,483.36
4 dependent children	148.84
4 permanently injured	2,442.17
395 temporarily injured	7,848.82
Hospital bills	4,045.96
Doctors' bills	1,310.90
Nurses' bills	2,016.00
Total	<u>20,296.05</u>

*Money spent in each department*

City refuse, 155 cases	3,388.62
Highway division, 64 cases	1,908.96
Sewer division, 42 cases	496.35
Public schools, 28 cases	309.37
Water department, 24 cases	651.72
District of Columbia repair shop, 21 cases	294.86
Trees and parkings, 19 cases	24.27
Welfare division, 8 cases	0
Superintendent of building, 6 cases	0
Electrical department, 6 cases	213.34
Weights and measures, 5 cases	0

Fire department repair shop, 5 cases.....	\$2.56
Health department, 4 cases.....	395.00
Playgrounds, 2 cases.....	64.22
Inspector of buildings, 2 cases.....	10.00
License bureau, 1 case.....	0
Police traffic bureau, 2 cases.....	89.55
Public library, 1 case.....	0

## Publications—Health office

Name of publication	Number printed	Cost of preparation	Cost of printing	Number distributed by mail, messenger, etc.	Cost of distribution
Annual Report, 1926.	500	Unable to estimate.....	\$1,400.00	About 200...	\$1.25.
Weekly report.....	150	105 hours annually, \$1,500; typist, \$70; 105 hours annually, \$1,020; messenger, \$48; reams paper (47).	32.19	150 weekly..	\$2.25 per week.
Monthly Bulletin, Grades of Milk.	1,000	24 days per annum, \$1,860; inspector-clerk, \$124.00.	240.00	750 monthly.	\$11.25 per month.

## ROADWAY PAVEMENTS

The accompanying table shows the area in square yards of new roadway pavements laid and old roadway pavements resurfaced during the year, with the total in square yards and miles of the various kinds of pavements at the close of the fiscal year.

## Comparative statement showing character and extent of roadway pavements

	Existing amount on June 30, 1926		New pavements laid during year (square yards)	Pavements replaced during year (square yards)	Existing amount on June 30, 1927	
	Square yards	Miles			Square yards	Miles
Sheet asphalt and coal tar.....	3,529,852	188.08	37,806	—	3,567,658	190.44
Asphalt block.....	602,032	30.56	—	<sup>1</sup> 8,041	593,991	29.94
Asphaltic surface (Bessonite).....	203,990	13.17	17,896	—	221,886	14.03
Durax block.....	31,679	1.13	—	—	31,679	1.13
Asphaltic or bituminous concrete:						
On concrete base.....	78,708	4.58	—	<sup>1</sup> 2,406	76,302	4.28
On stone base.....	38,909	2.16	—	—	38,909	2.16
Cement concrete.....	790,632	42.09	131,872	<sup>2</sup> 6,154	916,350	49.08
Granite block and rubble.....	260,598	14.77	—	<sup>2</sup> 11,742	248,856	14.25
Vitrified block.....	17,390	1.04	—	—	17,390	1.04
Cobble.....	36,374	1.52	—	—	36,374	1.52
Macadam (estimated).....	1,615,242	108.35	—	<sup>1</sup> 2,647 <sup>1</sup> 13,894	1,598,701	107.41
Gravel and unimproved (traveled).....	—	162.80	—	—	—	175.32
Gutters on asphalt streets.....	251,376	—	2,937	—	254,313	—
Pavements maintained by street railways.....	616,807	—	—	—	616,807	—
Gutters on asphaltic concrete streets.....	9,847	—	—	124	9,723	—
Total.....	8,083,436	570.25	190,511	45,008	8,228,939	590.60

<sup>1</sup> Replaced with standard pavement.<sup>2</sup> Replaced with asphaltic surface.<sup>1</sup> Replaced with cement concrete.

The sums appropriated for expenditures under this head during the year were as follows:

For repairing old roadway pavements, including asphalt resurfacing-----	\$1,000,000
For paving new roadways-----	148,600
For repairs to suburban roads-----	295,000
For grading streets, alleys, and roads-----	50,000
For paving and repaving roadways under the gasoline-tax road and street fund-----	658,100

The prices paid under contracts for roadway pavements during the year were as follows:

Laying sheet asphalt pavement (2½-inch asphalt surface, 2-inch binder (before compression) with 6-inch concrete base)-----	\$2.33, \$2.47, \$2.67
Laying vitrified block gutter with 6-inch concrete base-----	1.90, 2.00, 2.47
Laying 6-inch concrete roadway-----	1.78

The principal fields of activity in the year's construction work was the new roadway paving program and the resurfacing of old asphalt roadways. The latter activity was made possible by the recognition by Congress of the need of replacing at an early date a large area of such pavements which, due to their extreme age, were beyond the possibility of minor repairs.

#### SUBURBAN ROADS

The continued increase in the number of automotive vehicles, and especially of heavy trucks, brings a constant addition to the cost of maintaining these roads in a fair condition. The area of roadways under maintenance is increased by natural growth faster than it is decreased by current provisions for their permanent paving.

#### MUNICIPAL ASPHALT PLANT

During the year the municipal asphalt plant was operated for a period of 255¾ days, with a total output of 203,076 cubic feet of asphaltic material, or an average daily output of 794 cubic feet. The details of the cost of the operation of the plant are contained in the report of the engineer of highways.

#### SIDEWALKS AND ALLEYS

Some reduction was evident in the demand for new sidewalk construction and, in a lesser degree, for new alley paving. The fund for paving alleys and sidewalks abutting private property amounted to \$300,000 and for sidewalks abutting Government property \$15,000. Cement concrete was used exclusively. The contract prices for sidewalks were \$2.16 and \$2.17 for those adjacent to paved roadways and \$2.26 and \$2.23 for those adjacent to unpaved roadways.

#### BRIDGES

The expenditures for construction and repair of bridges amounted to \$39,904.91, and the appropriation for the maintenance of the Anacostia Highway and Key Bridges was expended in full. Highway guards were installed on the Calvert Street, Pennsylvania Avenue SE., and Klingle Road Bridges. The Van Buren Street subway under the tracks of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was completed.

## INSPECTION OF ASPHALTS AND CEMENTS

Through this office chemical and physical tests were made of engineer construction material, fuel oil, etc., to the total number of 11,505, of which 8,543 were Portland cement; covering, 139,770 barrels. The samples of asphalt tested covered 287,473 square yards of bituminous pavement.

## SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

The work of the surveyor's office is divided into three classes:

1. Work performed for private parties, for which fees are charged as provided by order of the commissioners.

2. Work for various departments of the Federal and District Governments, for which no fees are charged.

3. Work done in connection with condemnation cases for the opening of streets and alleys and the acquisition of parks, school and playground sites, etc.

## REVISION OF HIGHWAY PLAN

During the past fiscal year \$1,500 was appropriated for this purpose. Thirty-one cases were recorded, while during the preceding year only three were recorded. This shows the large increase in this class of work and indicates the importance of this appropriation for revision of the highway plan.

## SURVEYS TO MARK ON THE GROUND THE PERMANENT SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS

During the past fiscal year \$2,000 was appropriated for this purpose. This fund is used to mark on the ground the streets laid down on the plan of the permanent system of highways and for such changes in the plan as are made. A great amount of field work has been done in this connection during the past year, and the work will have to be continued in the future as streets are planned and development continues.

## CONDEMNATION CASES

The preliminary work in connection with condemnation cases to be filed in court is performed by the surveyor's office. This work calls for expert engineering field surveys, accurate computation of lines, areas to be condemned, preparation of plats and descriptions, and expert testimony of engineers in court. Of 68 cases pending in court during the past year 16 were confirmed, 17 dismissed, and 35 are still pending. Damages awarded by the jury in cases confirmed amounted to \$142,739.97. In addition to the cases cited above, a great many cases have been ordered by the commissioners, but were not filed prior to the close of the fiscal year. All of these cases have been prepared by the surveyor's office, some of which were the largest condemnation cases ever attempted. The work has been completed by the surveyor's office and it only remains for the cases to be filed in court.

The widening of Conduit Road, Good Hope Road, and Alabama Avenue, and the condemnation of streets south of the Walter Reed General Hospital reservation are all very large cases and required months of study and work in the preparation of plats and descriptions. The condemnation of streets south of Walter Reed Hospital

reservation is probably the largest condemnation case ever attempted by the District of Columbia, and the cost will probably exceed a million dollars.

During the year many condemnation cases were filed for the acquisition of streets in accordance with the highway plan which, heretofore, it would have been useless to attempt to condemn. This has been brought about by the enactment of an act of Congress which provides that in the condemnation of streets in accordance with the highway plan, where damages and costs exceed the benefits, that such excess may be paid out of the revenues of the District of Columbia.

#### CONDEMNATION OF SMALL PARK AREAS

An appropriation of \$12,500 was made during the past fiscal year for the purpose of acquiring small park areas at street intersections. More money should be appropriated for this purpose, as it is impossible, with such a small fund, to secure many of these important park sites. With such a small appropriation only about one case can be filed each year. There is always danger of improvements being erected which would prevent the acquisition of these park sites.

#### CLOSING OLD ROADS

Under the law authorizing the closing of any part of a street, road, or highway rendered useless or unnecessary by reason of the opening of other streets in accordance with the highway plan, upon the consent of all property owners abutting on the street or highway to be closed, many portions of roads and highways have been closed during the past year to permit of development by abutting property owners.

#### STREET EXTENSIONS

Fifty-four street-extension cases were recorded in this office during the past year. This includes all condemnation cases and dedications for the extension and widening of streets, and represents the number of plats showing these acquired streets actually recorded upon orders of the commissioners.

This report will show that, while there has been a decrease in certain classes of work by reason of decrease in building operations, other classes of work, such as street extensions, changes in the highway plan, zoning maps, etc., have been greater than the year previous, and this, with the enormous amount of work necessary on the large condemnation cases prepared, have kept the field and office force very busy during the past year.

#### TREES AND PARKING

The number of trees planted along the curbs on the streets in the District of Columbia at the close of the fiscal year was 105,123, a net increase of 427 trees. There are more trees on the streets of Washington at this time than ever in the history of the city. During the fiscal year 2,093 young trees were planted in their permanent positions. The work of extending the tree system in the suburbs and hitherto unplanted localities resulted in 1,749 young trees being



planted along many improved thoroughfares. The sum of \$16,406.34 was expended for labor and material to plant trees.

A total of 1,937 trees were removed from public space during the year for various reasons. A majority of these trees stood at the curb line.

The cost of removing 1,394 trees was paid from the appropriation for the trees and parking division at a total cost of \$7,488.42. The cost of other trees removed was paid from the appropriations of other departments and whole cost deposits.

During the year 12,973 trees were trimmed, at a total cost of \$11,759.01. The removal of broken limbs, trees, etc., from the streets caused by storms resulted in an expenditure of \$2,350.38.

Fifty-one thousand two hundred and thirty-three trees were sprayed for the extermination of leaf-eating insects, at a cost of \$3,672.85.

The sum of \$187.14 was expended in treating the cavities in 4 elm, 7 Norway maple, 7 silver maple, 2 sugar maple, and 1 linden tree that stood at the curb line.

The removal of weeds from uninclosed parkings and tree spaces was undertaken, at a cost of \$2,552.85.

The cultivation of 12,780 young trees involved the expenditure of \$2,382.75.

Our nurseries are well stocked with small trees of the varieties considered best for street planting. These nurseries have not been able to produce a sufficient number of trees of the proper size to keep pace with the growth of the city and its street improvements. Six hundred and twenty willow oak, 652 red oak, 195 pin oak, and 127 elm trees were transplanted at Fort Dupont nursery, and 776 linden, 473 pin oak, and 135 willow oak trees at the Poplar Point nursery. The sum of \$10,765.74 was expended on nursery work.

The height of 611 retaining walls was passed on, and 1,017 permits were issued affecting the grade of the parking in connection with building operations.

#### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF CITY REFUSE

In the work of collection and disposal of refuse of the city a noteworthy feature was the amount of garbage collected. This was 12½ per cent greater than for the year before, but it was not so rich in fats, so that the amount of grease produced was slightly less than a year ago, and as the market for grease this year was poor the resulting revenue from the reduction plant was about \$70,000 less than for the previous year.

The cost of operation of the reduction plant which produced this grease was \$155,137.49. The revenue from the grease sold from this plant was \$182,468.26.

The revenue from salvaged trash sold was also less than a year ago, on account of the cheap price for paper.

The total receipts by this department from all sources were as follows:

Grease .....	\$182,468.26
Waste material .....	70,385.27
Dead animals .....	1,868.00
Manure .....	2,266.04

The quantity of ashes collected was within 1 per cent of that collected in the previous year.

The number of dead animals collected during the year was surprisingly large, totaling 47,064.

The appropriation of \$450,000 for cleaning permitted work to be done over a considerably greater area than had been done heretofore.

#### BUILDING OPERATIONS

The estimated value of building operations during the year was \$49,776,865, a decrease of \$13,822,415 as compared with the figure given for the fiscal year 1926 of \$63,599,280. Building operations for the fiscal year of 1926 were considered abnormal, and operations during the past fiscal year, \$49,776,865, as compared with the fiscal year of 1924, \$39,403,207, which is considered normal, shows an increase of \$10,373,658.

The number of permits issued was 10,798 as against 11,574 last year, an insignificant decrease of 776. Business buildings numbered 699, whereas there were 758 in 1926. The number of apartments was 109 as against 173, and that of dwellings was 2,477 as compared with 4,135 for the previous year. The total number of new buildings was 3,285 in 1927 as compared with 5,066 in 1923.

The number of permits for the erection of signs numbered 2,083, a decrease of only 115 compared with the figure given last year.

There were 2,888 triyearly inspections of elevators made by four inspectors during the past year as compared with 1,939 made by three during the fiscal year 1926, which shows an increase of 76 inspections per man. Checks totaling \$3,325 were received paying for 2,660 inspections as against \$2,295 and 1,836, respectively.

There were 2,871 certificates of occupancy issued, an increase of 269 compared with the figure of last year of 2,602. Of these certificates or permits 2,616 were for a conforming use, while 255 represented a nonconforming use.

The total number inspections of fire escapes, apartments, fire equipment, places of public assemblage and entertainment, etc., was 3,315, while the fees collected were \$2,474, an increase in the number of inspections of 1,045, with a decrease of \$67 in the amount of fees collected compared with the previous year.

The amount collected in fees from the operation of the building-inspection division was \$74,615.25, while the total expenditure of the department, including salaries, was \$103,410.38.

#### PLUMBING AND PLUMBING INSPECTIONS

The plumbing-inspection division made 62,799 inspections during the year, an increase of 8 per cent over the number of inspections made last year. About half of these inspections were made of plumbing work in new buildings and about one-half were inspections on account of complaints of insanitary plumbing, leaking roofs, and defective rain leaders.

The plumbing board held 24 meetings and examined 82 applicants, of whom 23 passed and were granted licenses. At the close of the year there were 283 licensed master plumbers, 247 of whom were actively carrying on business. There are also 5 registered gas fitters.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STATIONS

Four public convenience stations were in operation throughout the year. The attendants reported a total patronage for all stations of nearly 16,500,000. The cash receipts from the use of pay compartments, etc., amounted to \$6,437.37, nearly one-fourth of the cost of operating the four stations, namely, \$28,000. Plans have been prepared for a new convenience station at the northeast corner of Ninth and F Streets NW. Facilities of this kind are badly needed in the vicinity of Fifteenth Street and New York Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, Good Hope Road and Nichols Avenue SE., Seventh Street and Florida Avenue NW., and Fourteenth Street and Park Road NW.

## INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS

Four hundred and seventy-nine steam boilers were inspected by the inspector of steam boilers, including 30 boilers, belonging to the District of Columbia. Five boilers were condemned as unfit for use. The compensation of the inspector of steam boilers is paid from the fees collected from the owners. No fees were received for inspecting boilers owned by the District of Columbia. The total amount of the fees reported was \$2,095 and the expenses of inspection \$380, leaving a net compensation of \$1,715 for the inspector.

## EXAMINATION OF STEAM ENGINEERS

The board of examiners of steam engineers held 52 meetings and examined 242 applicants, of whom 127 were found competent and 115 incompetent.

## CONDEMNATION OF INSANITARY BUILDINGS

During the past fiscal year the board for condemnation of insanitary buildings held 14 meetings and served 125 condemnation orders. Six hundred and forty-nine buildings were examined, of which 245 were condemned, 218 razed, 211 repaired, while on 133 no action was taken. Condemnation proceedings are pending in 27 cases. Twenty condemned buildings remained standing because of lack of funds for their demolition.

Repairs to an estimated value of \$93,477 were made, and approximately 2,500 people were benefited by such repairs. Nine hundred and eighty residents of condemned buildings were required to secure other living quarters.

## CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

During the year 23 buildings were under construction, as follows: Francis Junior High School, which was completed January 29, 1927; Randall Junior High School, 8-room addition to the Cardozo School, including gymnasium and assembly hall, which was completed January 28, 1927; Stuart Junior High School, with a combined assembly hall and gymnasium, which was completed February 24, 1927; MacFarland Junior High School, wing addition, which was completed March 10, 1927; John Greenleaf Whittier School, 8-room

extensible building, which was completed October 1, 1926; Job Barnard School, 8-room building, which was completed October 1, 1926; city refuse division stable, alterations, which were completed November 29, 1926; George Truesdell School, 8-room addition, which was completed October 1, 1926; McKinley Technical High School, including auditorium, gymnasium, and power house, which will be completed June 1, 1928; McKinley Technical High School retaining walls, which were completed April 1, 1927; McKinley Technical High School, additional retaining walls, which will be completed October 1, 1927; Hine Junior High School, addition, which was completed April 25, 1927; district jail building, addition, and rearrangement of the interior construction of the east wing of the old jail building, which will be completed August 13, 1927; John Burroughs School, 8-room addition, including a combined gymnasium and assembly hall, and including the necessary remodeling of the old building, which will be completed August 12, 1927; fire department repair shop, addition, which was completed March 13, 1927; Woodridge School, 8-room extensible building, which will be completed August 10, 1927; police station No. 14, which was completed May 28, 1927; Langley Junior High School, addition, including an assembly hall and gymnasium, which will be completed January 15, 1928; Gallinger Municipal Hospital, which will be completed May 1, 1929; bird house, which will be completed January 1, 1928; Petworth School, addition of gymnasium and assembly hall, which will be completed January 1, 1928; West School, addition of gymnasium and assembly hall, which will be completed January 1, 1928; Bruce School, 8-room addition, which will be completed August 1, 1927; Smothers School, 4-room addition, including the necessary remodeling of old building, which will be completed January 15, 1928; District Training School, construction of a combined power plant and laundry, driving of 136-foot well, construction of a pump house, and erection of a 50,000-gallon steel water tank.

Besides the preparation of plans and specifications for the above-mentioned buildings, plans and specifications for over 50 other pieces of work, such as alterations and repairs to buildings, heating, plumbing, and electrical work, for the various buildings were prepared in this office, amounting to \$220,031.

The contracts entered into by this office during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1926, and ending June 30, 1927, amounted to a total of \$2,400,674.

#### REPAIRS TO MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

All municipal buildings are kept in repair under the direction of the municipal architect.

The appropriations for repair work and the expenditures of same were as follows:

For the repairs and improvements to school buildings and grounds, \$550,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended.

For repairs and improvements to engine houses and grounds, \$28,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended except \$198.92.

For repairs and improvements to police stations and station grounds, \$9,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended except \$215.94.

For repairs and alterations to police court building, \$2,500 was appropriated, all of which was expended except \$411.34.

For the installation of toilet and bathing facilities in houses of the fire department, \$20,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended except \$15.15.

For the installation of a heating plant in the District repair shop, \$1,500 was appropriated, all of which was expended except \$217.24.

In addition to the above, repairs were made on various buildings under the supervision of the superintendent of repairs to the amount of \$46,168.52 out of the appropriations controlled by other departments.

Steam boilers in over 100 District buildings were inspected and repaired.

#### WORKHOUSE AND REFORMATORY

The principal work done at the workhouse consisted of work on 3 dormitories, 2 of which were completed and ready for occupancy; 1 isolation building, 60 per cent complete; industrial railroad, near completion; addition to brick plant, construction of canning factory, automobile-license plate shop, and foundry.

The principal work done at the reformatory consisted of 3 dormitories, concrete floors, and plumbing fixtures put in; 2 dormitories, brickwork and roof completed; 1 dormitory, brickwork 25 per cent complete; roadwalk and roof connecting dormitory, completed; 1 mess hall, 1 clothing shop, 1 auto tag shop, 1 foundry building, and 1 canning factory building.

#### HARBOR FRONT

The actual frontage of the District of Columbia devoted to commerce, with the exception of canals, is about 2 miles. The total available water front is 18 miles, of which about 8 miles is set aside for parks and other purposes of the United States. The greater part of the wharf property under the control of the commissioners is situated along the Washington Channel.

The harbor police station and dock, the dock of the fire boat, the District Morgue, the municipal fish wharves and market, and the District workhouse and sand wharves are located on the Washington Channel between N and Thirteenth Streets. The balance of the frontage is leased by steamboat companies, boathouses, lumber dealers, etc.

The total revenue from wharf rentals, including the fish market, amounted to \$34,558.45.

Repairs were made to certain wharves at a total cost of \$11,575.68.

The report prepared by the United States Engineer Office relating to the general development and improvement of the water front along the Washington Channel has been completed and will probably be transmitted to Congress in December of this year. As many of the wharves are in an advanced stage of deterioration, the hope is expressed that this project may be approved and funds appropriated for beginning the work at an early date.

#### DISTRICT BUILDING

In addition to the usual care of the District Building, numerous rooms were reassigned and many alterations made in order to relieve

congestion. Necessary repairs were made to the mechanical equipment by the personnel of the power plant, including plumbing throughout the building, Fairbanks scales, and the track leading from the coal vaults to the boilers, high-pressure steam main, boiler-feed pumps, etc. Commutators and generators were repaired at a cost of \$246.79.

Two thousand two hundred and six and nine-tenths tons of coal, ranging in price from \$5.38 to \$6.48 per ton, were consumed. The percentage of ash was 14.47.

The heating system was in operation 4,920 hours, the ventilating system 1,280 hours, the pneumatic tube system 2,178 hours, and the water-cooling system 2,666 hours. The total number of kilowatt-hours generated was 533,840.

The elevators were repaired and kept in operation, although attention is again called to the worn condition of the six passenger elevators.

Walls and ceilings were painted at a cost of \$2,939.06.

#### MUNICIPAL GARAGE

Fifty automobiles were maintained and kept in running condition for the various departments of the District of Columbia. The labor and mechanical forces were engaged in repairing automobiles, carrying mail, and driving for departments without automobiles or drivers, and greasing, oiling, and washing cars at night. The automobile repair shop is operated in connection with this garage, which shop is located at Second and Bryant Streets NW., where all repair work is done for the water and sewer departments, District of Columbia repair shop, board of public welfare, and others.

Operating cost for maintenance of 50 automobiles, including gasoline, oil, tires, labor, and miscellaneous supplies, amounted to \$21,203.48, or an average of \$424.07 per car, or \$0.0492 per mile. Repair parts used in cars cost \$3,452.98, an average of \$69.06 per car, or \$0.0132 per mile. The mileage of the 50 automobiles totaled 311,184, or 6,223 miles per car.

#### STREET LIGHTING

There are 24,973 public lamps of all kinds in the avenues, streets, alleys, etc., under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. Of these, 11,136 are gas and 13,837 electric; of the gas lamps, 10,040 are single-burner mantle, 773 are double-burner mantle, and 323 are small flat flame, for designation purposes; of the electric 906 are magnetite arc, 12,615 are incandescent, ranging from 60 to 1,000 candlepower each (57 per cent of 60 and 100), and 316 are incandescent of about 10 candlepower, for "designation."

There was a net increase during the year of 1,587 lamps.

The increase in aggregate candlepower of the street-lighting system under the jurisdiction of the commissioners is from approximately 2,844,000 to approximately 4,368,000, about 53 per cent. The increase in annual charges is, however, less than 25 per cent.

The approved project of improved lighting has been carried well forward, limited as yet, in general, to main traffic arteries and to streets about to be repaved. The resulting improvement of visibility

is a certain comfort to those using the streets at night and, it is believed, contributes to decrease of hazard to life, limb, and property, as well as contributing to the beautification of the city. Newly designed posts, following, with the cordial indorsement of the Commission of Fine Arts, the lines of the "Millet" post, designed for Washington and in use since 1911, have been produced, giving a greater mounting height to the lamp and better comporting with the dimensions of the larger lamp units. All old posts displaced are salvaged, fitted with an extension piece to increase mounting height, and reinstalled elsewhere. The optical effect of the increased mounting height, with the larger lighting units, and the more efficient glassware thereby rendered practicable, results in material increase of visibility at materially less rate of increase of cost—economical improvement.

Of 6.6-ampere arc lamps, the number in service was increased by 86, and of 4-ampere arc lamps, reduced by 72. New arc-lamp installations are at M Street NW. from Twenty-seventh to Thirty-sixth Streets and adjacent portion of Wisconsin Avenue; E Street NW. from Fifth to Thirteenth Streets; and on Eleventh Street NW. from Pennsylvania Avenue to G Street. This type of lamp is strikingly effective and, while not pleasing in all situations, the color value of its light, contrasting with that of show windows, gives a better general effect, both æsthetic and practical, than the incandescent street lamp in chosen situations. It has the highest commercial efficiency.

Of incandescent lamps of 1,000 candlepower, 600 candlepower, 400 candlepower, and 250 candlepower, combined, the number in service was increased by 3,655; of 100 candlepower and 60 candlepower decreased by 1,193; net increase, 2,462. Among the prominent items of the new incandescent lighting are (a) the extension of last year's new lighting of Massachusetts Avenue from Wisconsin Avenue west to the District line, and from Seventh Street NW. east to Nineteenth Street SE., including Stanton and Lincoln Squares, the extremes being treated fractionally to an appropriate degree under present conditions; (b) Connecticut Avenue, entire, including Farragut Square and Dupont Circle, except bridge over Rock Creek, lamps being on ornamented posts to the bridge and on trolley poles at curbs, thence to District line; (c) Rhode Island Avenue, entire, including Iowa Circle, on ornamental posts east to Fourth Street NE., thence on center trolley poles; these examples are indicative of the comprehensive manner in which arteries of traffic are being treated, suiting the treatment to existing and early prospective civic and physical conditions.

Of the mantle gas lamps the number of single burner in service was decreased by 771, and of double burner decreased by 136. While existing condition of distribution systems necessitates occasionally the new installation of a few gas lamps, the reduction of gas street lighting is well begun, the reduction in the past year having been nearly double the recent yearly average increase.

Of the designation lamps in service there was a net increase of 18. These lamps are used mostly to maintain a red light on post bearing a fire-alarm box.

The claims against certain railway companies for payment of street-lighting charges, in accordance with law, seems on the way to early settlement out of court.

#### SIGNALS SYSTEM—FIRE-ALARM, POLICE-PATROL, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES

There were 915 fire-alarm boxes in service at the end of the year, 778 on underground and 137 on overhead wires, a net increase of 38 over the preceding year; 3,467 box and local fire alarms (exclusive of "additional" alarms) were received and transmitted during the year, of which 379, a highly excessive number, were false alarms.

There were 518 police-patrol boxes in service at the end of the year, 422 on underground and 96 on overhead wires, an increase of 9 compared with the preceding year; 7 boxes were changed from overhead to underground connection.

There were 1,796 telephones connected to the District system at the end of the year and 29 in use as portable sets by fire and electrical departments, an increase of 68 in the year.

There were 2,692 cells of storage battery in service on fire-alarm, police-patrol, and local circuits at the end of the year.

There were in service in the composite signals system (fire-alarm, police-patrol, and telephone) on June 30, 1927, a grand total of 8,257 miles of conductor, of which 8,067 miles were underground and 190 miles overhead. Reserve capacity of cable is below requirement of demand and below safe emergency provision. Provision for expansion is again presented as an urgent requirement.

#### REGULATION OF ELECTRIC WIRING

The number of permits issued for installation of electrical wires and apparatus was 14,144; fees paid to collector of taxes, \$24,372.55; number of inspections recorded, 29,793.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE-DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

The construction and maintenance of the sewerage system and the sewage-disposal system of the District of Columbia is placed under a division in charge of the sanitary engineer.

The length of sewers constructed during the year was 26.91 miles. Including the sewage-disposal system, the total length of main and pipe sewers on June 30, 1927, was 908.49 miles, of which 205.72 miles were main sewers and 702.76 were pipe sewers. In addition to the above, 375 storm-water catch basins were constructed during the year, bringing the total to 6,864.

There was expended during the year on new extensions of the sewerage system the sum of \$1,088,869.52 and on the sewage-disposal system \$85,440.93. The total cost of the sewerage system to June 30, 1927, was \$19,181,762.99 and of the sewage-disposal system to the same date was \$6,237,292.60, making a total of \$25,419,055.59.

A new automatically controlled subpumping station was built on Earle Place, just west of Bladensburg Road, to take care of a 12-acre drainage pocket between Bladensburg Road and the Baltimore & Ohio Railway, and was put in service on April 18, 1927.



... main sewerage pumping station and three substations were in continuous operation throughout the year, and Earle Place substation, since it was put in operation, handling the sewage of practically the entire District and a small amount from Maryland. In addition the main station handled the storm water from the 900-foot, low-level area flanking Pennsylvania Avenue from Peace Monument to Fifteenth Street. At the main station the combined pumpage of sewage and storm water amounted to 30,739,006,000 gallons during the year. The Poplar Point substation pumped 700,194,496 gallons; Rock Creek substation, 473,243,000 gallons; Woodridge substation, 13,361,500 gallons; and Earle Place substation (pumping 74 days), 115,731 gallons. Eliminating the last three substations, which deliver their discharge to the main station, the above indicates a mean daily pumpage of 86,134,796 gallons. The coal consumption at the main station for the year was 4,589 tons, of which about 14 per cent should be charged off to bunker losses and miscellaneous uses.

Under the agreement of June 3, 1924, between the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission of Maryland, providing for the connection of their respective sewerage systems, a District sewer was advanced to the Maryland State line at Sixty-first Street NE. and a Maryland sewer was connected thereto. During the fiscal year the total net revenue to the District on account of handling Maryland sewage amounted to \$33.92.

In line with recommendations made by the Bureau of Mines, after an investigation requested by the commissioners, a number of changes have been made in the steam-generating plant at the main station. The furnace space of two boilers has been increased about 45 per cent by moving forward the front walls of the furnaces, and necessary equipment has been purchased to make similar changes in the four remaining boilers. A new economizer is being installed and a water softener has been purchased. Stationary soot blowers were installed on the six boilers to replace the old and inefficient hand blowers.

The pollution of the Potomac River by discharge of raw sewage was less than for a number of previous years, due to the increased average flow of the river during the year.

One thousand one hundred and fifty-three houses were provided with service sewers, the length of sewer constructed averaging 98 feet per house. This is some 30 feet more per house than required the previous year.

#### WATER MAINS

During the year 126,121 linear feet, or 23.88 miles of water main of various sizes, were laid, at an aggregate cost of \$430,506.11, making a total length of main now in service of 753.77 miles.

#### WATER CONSUMPTION

The mean daily water consumption was 68,721,450 gallons, giving an approximate mean daily per capita consumption of 137 gallons.

Total pumpage for the year was 14,822,468,784 gallons.

Total coal burned was 10,023 tons.

The cost of operating pumps for the year was \$121,800, of which \$121,800 was paid for the year against \$122,204.97 in 1926, thus making the total operative cost to pumping 1,000,000 gallons of water into the mains \$8.20, or \$0.30 per million gallons less than last year.

The financial statement of the water department revenue and expenditures will be found in the report of the auditor of the District of Columbia.

#### WATER METERS

During the year 3,334 new meters were installed, and 78,644, or 85.3 per cent of the total water services are now metered.

PROCTOR L. DOUGHERTY,  
SIDNEY F. TALIAFERRO,  
WILLIAM B. LADUE,

*Commissioners of the District of Columbia.*



